

T H E
L I F E
And entertaining
ADVENTURES
O F
Mr. CLEVELAND,
Natural SON of
OLIVER CROMWELL,
Written by HIMSELF.

Giving a particular Account of his Unhappiness in Love, Marriage, Friendship, &c. and his great Sufferings in *Europe and America.*

Intermixed with Reflections, describing the Heart of Man in all its Variety of Passions and Disguises; also some curious Particulars of *Oliver's* History and Amours, never before made publick.

V O L. IV.

L O N D O N :

Printed for T. ASTLEY, at the Rose in St. Paul's Church-Yard, 1734.

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LIFE
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VOL. IV.

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Printed for T. Astley, at the Sign in St. Pauls
Church-Yard, 1774.



THE
L I F E
O F
Mr. CLEVELAND,
NATURAL SON
O F
Oliver Cromwell.

BOOK VI.



PON my coming into *Europe*
I consider'd, notwithstanding
the deep anguish which prey'd
upon my spirits, that I was ob-
lig'd to attend to certain indispensable
duties. I was under a necessity of giving

a proper education to my children, and the daughter of my unhappy brother, whom I was bound to love as dearly as my two sons. I was also oblig'd in honour to settle my sister-in-law, and Mrs. *Lallin*, and allow them a decent maintenance. I had ready money enough to do all this, and was not any way uneasy on these accounts, especially with regard to the two ladies; towards whom I might easily acquit myself, by leaving to them the place they might chuse to settle in. But tho' my circumstances gave me an opportunity of bestowing a liberal education on my sons and my niece *Bridge*; I yet was more divided with regard to the method of it, and the place I should send them to. With respect to the method, I wish'd it had been in my own power to regulate it; and to act the same part towards them, as my mother had done to me. I weigh'd these matters for a considerable time, but at last found that my mind was so much disturb'd, that it would be impossible for me to order these several particulars, in so just and regular a manner as was necessary. I consider'd farther, that my instructions must certainly take a tincture, from the deep affliction that then sat brooding over my
soul;

soul; which possibly might make them too gloomy and severe for children of that age: not to mention what my own experience had taught me, *viz.* that singular and uncommon methods of education, how judicious soever they may appear in theory, don't always succeed in practice. Man was form'd for society: reason therefore suggests, that our infant-instructions should be given with a view to what nature has appointed us for. In my opinion, 'tis departing from this, to breed up a child in solitude; and to prevent him from imbibing that knowledge in his infancy, which will be perpetually necessary to him, during the remaining part of his life. The precepts which philosophy inculcates, are, indeed, suited to all ages and seasons; but as they are not to be consider'd, even where they are of the greatest use, but as so many helps to wisdom, that is, as so many maxims, to direct and support us in the practice of our duties; 'tis plain, that we ought, at the same time, if not before, to be taught what those duties are; otherwise, I don't see how they can produce a wish'd for effect.

Now the most natural, and consequently the most indispensable of all du-

ties, are those of society; duties which are not acquir'd by bare speculation, but from what is properly call'd the knowledge of the world, which is seldom attain'd but by practice. I therefore concluded, that I could not pitch upon any method of education which could prove so useful, as that commonly follow'd; I mean the sending them to a publick school: 'tis not but this method also has its inconveniences, but then I look'd upon them as inconsiderable, when compar'd with the many and solid advantages which result from this way of bringing up youth.

HAVING thus made choice of the method, I was next to fix upon a place. I was now in *France*, where I might either reside, or go over into *England*. But as I did not intend to be far from my children, I wanted to pitch upon some city, which might suit with us all. I had nothing to do with regard to them, but to look out a school, which I might easily find; so that I was now concern'd only upon my own account. After having suffer'd so many losses, and met with such a series of misfortunes, in what part of the world could I now hope to meet with an asylum? In case I follow'd only the blind impulses of an affliction, which was incessantly present

sent to my mind ; I then could wish for no other refuge but the grave. I now was no longer capable of liking one part of the world better than another ; for so excessive was my sorrow, that I look'd upon every thing with indifference, not to say distaste and aversion. Like to a man whom a burning fever confines to the bed of grief: the fire which rages in his veins, drives sleep from his eyes, and won't suffer him to take a moment's rest ; he turns and tosses about incessantly, and is every instant shifting his posture, in order to find out one which may ease his dreadful agonies ; he stretches his wearied limbs towards every part of the bed ; and hopes, in vain, to meet with that ease in the part to which he turns, which he could not find in that he left : Every new posture which his pangs force him to throw himself into, seems the most grievous and insupportable. Thus, when I consulted only my tortur'd imagination, I could not find any particular spot upon earth, which I might prefer to the rest ; and that might give me the least hopes of proving a remedy, or even of soothing my heart-breaking afflictions.

BUT then perhaps, says I, reason may afford me more consolation, notwithstanding

ing that the resources it offer'd me were still impotent; I at least know by past experience, that in case my present evils were not absolutely incurable, 'twas from reason alone I could expect a cure. Tho' I was not yet sensible of its efficacy, I yet knew its strength; and was not ignorant of the means which that faculty would employ to bring me to a wish'd for tranquillity; provided I could but be so much master of my self as to follow its dictates. The greatest difficulty therefore was to prevail with my self to listen to it, and to begin again, by insensible degrees, to relish its principles, which grief had not destroy'd, but only suspended their functions as it were. For this purpose, it was necessary for me to pitch upon a place to settle in, in which I might find, either by conversation or study, such expedients as might calm my troubled mind, and restore my reason to its former empire. Indeed my last unhappiness was of such a nature, that it requir'd stronger remedies. Whatever exists no more may be forgotten: a resentment of injuries, the remembrance of the loss of possessions, and of a once miserable condition, decay and grow fainter by time. Even the loss of persons dear as life it self, how mournful

ful soever the circumstances may be, is at last sooth'd as years slide on; and as we are dead to all hopes, so our sighs and wishes die away. But the infidelity of a wife, attended with the criminal circumstances before related; an affliction so justly grounded as I fancied mine to be, the still-existing cause whereof was incessantly present to my memory; such a complication of heart-breaking circumstances as these would not suffer me to enjoy a moment's ease. What happy instant could my reason make choice of, to suppress the perpetual tumults of my heart; or find an opportunity of being heard in the midst of so much sadness and distraction?

NEVERTHELESS, the hopes I entertain'd of its assistance, was the only motive which prompted me to fix upon *Saurmur* for my own and my children's residence, preferable to any other place. That city then made a very considerable figure; and indeed its reputation could not be founded on two better titles than those of religion and knowledge. It abounded with persons of great piety, able professors, and a multitude of foreigners, who came thither from all protestant countries, to imbibe wisdom and

virtue, as at their source. My children could not possibly be educated in a better school ; and with regard to my self, I imagin'd there was no place where I could hope to meet with so much ease and solid comfort. In what part soever of the world my faithless wife might be ; I resolv'd, as was before observ'd, never to go in search of her. On the contrary I fancied, tho' I still lov'd her dearly, that I even should not so much as go to see her, did the most favourable opportunity present itself for that purpose. The only resolution I could have taken, had I heard where she was, would perhaps have been to get her seiz'd, without letting her know that it was by my orders ; and then to confine her in some place, where she would have no opportunity of ever injuring me more. 'Twas not a thirst of revenge that suggested this thought : may she live, would I say, notwithstanding the deep anguish which the remembrance of my tenderness, and her slighted vows, awak'd in my bosom ; may she even be as happy, as her baseness renders her unworthy of being so ; may all the happiness she has depriv'd me of, be united to her own, and by that means make her felicity still more perfect ;

perfect ; or in case justice calls out from heaven for punishment, may she suffer only by remorse and repentance ! But I owe too much to the memory of lord *Axminster*, to suffer his daughter to be dishonour'd, in case 'tis in my power to prevent her from being so. I'll get her seiz'd indeed, but then she shall be confin'd in a secure, but agreeable place, where I'll procure her every satisfaction in my power. She is of a soft-temper, says I ; *Gelin's* death will undoubtedly set the enormity of her crimes in the strongest light ; she'll bear confinement with patience ; may perhaps spend it in content, and I only shall be wretched.

IN this manner the habit I had contracted of controuling my passions, supported me still against those which had not yet entirely gain'd an ascendant over my reason. Hatred and revenge could never be so predominant, as to instil their poyson into my soul ; love only and affliction struggled, with wisdom, for pre-eminence in my bosom ; but the two last tyrants have made a dreadful havock in it ; and I know not yet when heaven will be so good as to deliver me entirely out of their power.

As soon as I was fix'd in the resolution of going to *Saumur*, I communicated my

design to Mrs. *Lallin* and my sister-in-law; and at the same time desir'd them to think of some place to settle in. The ladies were determin'd much sooner than I expected; and were so unanimous, that I did not doubt but they had concerted it before. Both of them cried out almost at the same instant, We won't leave you; this is our fixt resolution, and therefore we beg you not to oppose it. You want comfort; and no persons living will be more desirous of administering it than ourselves. As I had hinted to them, that I intended to send my children to a publick school, they observ'd to me, that they were as yet too tender to be trusted to strangers; and thereupon, Mrs. *Lallin* engag'd to behave as a mother to my two sons; and propos'd that my sister-in-law should undertake the education of her own daughter. She spoke in so urgent a manner, that having no just objection to make, I acquiesced instantly with their desires; so that continuing still blinder than ever, with regard to the principal cause of my misfortune and that of my wife, I consented imprudently to what must naturally contribute to perpetuate it. Upon this, we agreed to go immediately to *Saumur*, and there hire a house for

for us to live in together. Altho' my name was not so famous, as to engage people to use me with a peculiar distinction; we nevertheless agreed that I should change it; I being firmly resolv'd to avoid every thing that had the air of ostentation, or might hinder me from studying. The two ladies likewise chang'd their names in such a manner, that it was impossible they should be known by them; and upon this, we set out for *Nantz* in 1667, immediately after the conclusion of the peace between *France* and *England*; and soon got very happily to our journey's end.

This pacific situation of affairs had brought so great a confluence of foreigners to *Saumur*, that we could scarce meet with a house for our purpose; which, however we at last did. My first care was to get a large store of books, and whatever else was necessary for my new philosophical projects. I had made choice of a place situated a little remote from the city, in order to be more at liberty, either to see company or be alone, as I should judge proper. The conduct of the children, and of my domestic affairs, I left to the women; and shutting my self up in my study from morning to night,
I began

I began again to improve my mind with reading and reflection; delightful exercise! to which I ow'd all the joys of my infant years, and from which I now hop'd to reap the same benefit. Tho' I had so long laid aside my studies, I nevertheless had not forgot all I had formerly learnt; so that without being oblig'd to go so far back as the elements, it yet was no difficult matter for me to strike into ways which I had never entirely lost sight of. I resum'd them at the same point where I left off; that is to say, relying on the solidity of the principles which I had imbib'd in the dawn of life, I sought for some method in books and reflections, how to apply them to the present situation of my mind. This employ'd my thoughts for some weeks; and here all my struggles and my whole attention center'd; I say all the struggles, and all the attention I was capable of bestowing; for I must be forced to confess, to my own shame, or that of philosophy; that my exterior solitude, and my apparent assiduity, were unfaithful images of the inward disposition of my soul; for while my eyes were fix'd on a book, my thoughts would insensibly stray from it, and wander through the several places which

which had been the scenes of my misfortunes. These would image to my fancy the bloody spectacle of my daughter and Mrs. *Riding*, murther'd before my eyes, and devour'd by tygers in the shape of men; my dreadful sufferings in the deserts of *America*; the lord *Axminster's* deplorable end; my wife's infidelity and shameful flight; the fatal effect of dear *Bridge's* friendship and generosity; in a word, the several persecutions of fortune, and those I might expect hereafter. These dreadful ideas made almost as strong an impression on my mind, as the objects themselves had done; and when I recover'd my self (so weak was my constancy and resolution) my eyes would generally be bath'd in tears, and my heart heave with sighs, as they were forcibly endeavouring to get a vent. If at any time I happen'd to be more attentive than ordinary to what I was reading, I yet was far from reaping that benefit which I had expected from it; the conclusions I drew from my studies, had very little effect on my soul; my meditations were jejune and barren; I indeed perceived truths, but then I could not discover the relation they might bear to my present circumstances; or know how to employ them,

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so as to make them serve as remedies. Is this, would I sometimes cry out with astonishment, after having made numberless useless reflections; is this the source of peace and wisdom, which formerly was of so great advantage to me? are these principles the same with those, on which my strength and tranquillity were formerly so well founded? Is it they, or I am chang'd? I can easily account for their failing me at a time when I wanted them; a time, when the distraction of my thoughts hinder'd me from perceiving those principles; but how was it possible for them then to make their influence be felt, since they could neither exhibit, or make themselves be heard by a soul which saw nothing but grief and affliction? But what now prevents these principles from re-assuming their former ascendant? I now invoke their assistance, and open to them a sad afflicted heart, which languishes till they assist it. Wherefore don't they indulge it instantly? why don't they restore it to that wish'd for, that happy calm it formerly enjoy'd; and which it believ'd was wholly owing to them?

As neither study or reflections could ease my mind effectually, I at last began to think that there was some error in the

foundation of my philosophy; and not being able to persuade my self that the emptiness of my efforts was owing to this, I rather believ'd that 'twas I my self deviated from the right way, either in my principles or my method. I us'd to argue in the following manner: Nature, says I; or to speak without a figure, the divine wisdom would never let men be expos'd to incurable evils. As she gave them existence, she engages her self, in some measure, to furnish them with the means of preserving themselves; otherwise, considering the numberless evils to which they are incessantly obnoxious, they would be the most wretched of all beings, finding themselves exposed to continual sorrows, at the same time that they are endued with reason; because it would then seem that it had been indulg'd for no other purpose but to torture them. And indeed we see, that there are few distempers but have a remedy pointed out for them, either by the light of nature, or some happy experiments. In case any should be found incurable, they are not to be consider'd as the work of nature any more than monsters; 'tis enough that, pursuant to the general laws of nature, we meet with few

few infirmities but what are cured by the assistance of the physician. Has not providence extended its care to brutes? We daily observe that they are acquainted with the virtues of simples, and eat a great many things which heal their diseases. Thus God's wisdom extends itself to the preservation of all animal beings, not excepting such as are void of reason.

Now if this disposition appears just and necessary with regard to the body, which undoubtedly is the most inferior part of us, and has no other dignity but what it borrows from its union with the soul: would it not be the highest affront to the justice and wisdom of our Creator, to think he has so far neglected the most noble of two substances, as to refuse it that succour which he indulges to the most contemptible of them? Grief, and the rest of the violent passions, are the diseases of the soul. A pestiferous fever cannot make wilder havock in the whole mass of blood, than these tyrants do in the rational faculties. Could it be possible for us ever to believe, that there is no remedy against their cruel attacks, and that the most grievous of all evils is incurable? It either is not so, or surely I have not a suitable idea of the justice of our Creator. As

As I therefore succeed so ill in soothing my anxiety, certainly the fault is either in my self, or in the remedies I employ; 'tis in my self in case I have err'd in the method, or in some of my principles; or in the remedy, if the mind is not to be cured by philosophy, and that the Divine Being makes so great an effect flow from some other cause.

BUT then again I would object, what cause have I to suspect philosophy? has not she, in all ages, been consider'd as the standard by which we are to square our conduct; and the controul of the passions? Have not the greatest men had recourse to her on all occasions, when they wanted either to correct or regulate the heart? Would these imagine her invested with a power she has not; and could they have been as much deceiv'd as my self, in flattering themselves that she could furnish them with a succour which it is not in her power to lend? Upon this, I resolv'd to re-examine my own principles, and all I had formerly imbib'd, which was not very difficult for me to do, as I had a very happy memory. I then endeavour'd wholly for some days, to recollect all my mother had taught me; and the most excellent notions I had either

ther read, on my own thoughts had suggested, with regard to wisdom and happiness.

I TRAC'D matters from their origin, and carried my imagination so far backward, as the first instant in which a man is suppos'd to enjoy a free use of his reason; as nothing is more present to his mind than himself, consequently his first attention must necessarily be fix'd on his own being. He examines its nature, and finds it to be compounded. Two substances of a different kind, and unequal in dignity, with regard to their essence, are found united and blended, as it were, to produce actions common to both. Each of them, consider'd separately, is altogether incapable of performing the other's operations; and yet, when united together, they both produce the same operation. The body moves, walks and acts, to all which it is naturally fitted; and yet it would not move, were it not for the conjunction of the soul, which is incapable of motion. Our soul receives the several sensations of pleasure and pain which is its nature, and yet it would not receive them, were it not for the mediation of the body, which is altogether incapable of sensation.

Thus

Thus there are two distinct parts of the same being, which are absolutely necessary to each other. The body cannot exert itself unless it be so inform'd and actuated by the soul; as on the other side, the soul would be in a perpetual apathy, were it not for the mediation of the body. But then does this mutual dependence argue their equality? To this I answer, no; and find on the contrary, that the body does not contribute to those actions which are common to it with the soul, but after a groveling manner, that is to say, by mere motions; and in case any other property is peculiar to it, 'tis not of a more noble kind; 'tis barely that of receiving a bounded number of shapes and combinations, which is so inconsiderable an advantage, that it does not deserve the name of perfection. But on the other side, the soul appears to have all the characteristicks of true greatness. What name shall I give to that wonderful faculty, by which it perceives, knows and judges? The soul studies, and contemplates its own substance, and discovers the nature and properties of it. Notwithstanding the dependence it has on the body, it yet disengages itself so far from it, as to consider the latter as
a being

a being of a quite different nature from, and inferior to itself; a substance, whose greatest glory is its being united with, and forming one being with the soul. This penetrates, weighs and examines the nature of the body, but finds the latter so contemptible; that she concludes it were almost as good not to exist at all, as be so groveling and insensible a portion of matter.

HENCE, in case the soul applies herself to contemplate all she is capable of perceiving; she soon discovers, that tho' she is united with a material body, by such laws as it is impossible for her to comprehend, she yet is related to something of a more exalted and worthy nature. The least reflection gives her an idea of order, and of the several perfections and virtues; when finding the thing she perceives is not herself, she concludes, that what thus exhibits itself so clearly, must necessarily have a real existence, since a non-ens must be imperceptible. So important a discovery fills her at first with doubts and fears; she enquires, internally, what she ought to think of a being which thus reveals itself only in part; but at the same time, after so bright, so sublime a manner, as she presently discovers

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that this being must certainly be more perfect than herself, since she is illuminated by it. But has the soul no other tie or communication with it, than a bare and transient perception? At least how came it to pass that she was not inform'd with it sooner? But now she is for retracing the past, in order to examine the progress of her knowledge; when she confesses with astonishment, that she does but then begin to know.

And now her admiration and surprize encrease. 'Tis no hard matter for her to discover, at the same time, this new æra of her existence. But what being indulg'd it her? The soul plainly perceives, that she her self is not the author of it. By what methods shall she find out the Being, whose goodness gave, and maintains, her existence.

To make this important enquiry, she has recourse to exterior objects. She considers every thing which surrounds her: what a variety of objects present themselves, and how eagerly she pants to discover the nature of them all! Nevertheless, she soon sees that her ideas are more confin'd than she at first suspected they were. She does not find any thing in the whole compass of beings round her,

her, capable of satisfying her doubts. That immense composition which we call the world, stops her but a moment; for a little reflection on the least of its parts, teaches her to form a judgment of the rest. She sees nothing but matter, that is, a gross and insensible substance, whose whole difference consists merely in the variety of its motions and configurations, and is directly of the same nature with those of her body, which she had before discover'd and despis'd; and she has too exalted an idea of her self, to ascribe her original to so mean and groveling a cause.

'Tis true indeed, that amidst those parts of matter which appear to her susceptible only of a blind and passive motion; she perceives some which seem to move with more choice and liberty. She observes, that their actions are too various, and at the same time too beautifully link'd, and too regular, not to spring from a rational, intelligent principle. Besides, their form agrees exactly with that of her own body; they seem to have the same tendency, and to be obnoxious to the same wants. Thence she concludes that they don't act alone, that they are accompanied with something which

resembles her self; in fine, that they are like her own body, the shell or receptacle of something of a more noble nature than themselves. Thrice happy discovery! May she not owe her existence to some of those exalted and immaterial Beings? These think, feel, and reflect as she does; may not they therefore have communicated to her, what they themselves possess?

BUT in case they bear a resemblance to the soul, as she is firmly persuaded they do, why should they enjoy a power which she is sensible she does not? But supposing they really were invested with such a power, to whom would they owe it? for 'tis very evident they could not possibly have bestow'd it on themselves. For then neither they, nor her self, would continue long in the mortifying dependance on a body, in case they could act as they pleas'd, and produce any change in their condition. The soul must therefore leave the enquiry of the several objects round her, as of no service to her researches. She finds her self lodg'd in the world, but she manifestly perceives that it did not give her being; and that she cannot ascribe her original to what is inferior to her self; or to a thing which being

at most her equal; must, as well as her self, owe its existence to some cause.

IN the mean time, this excursion on outward objects, is of the highest advantage to her. In examining the matter of which this vast universe is fram'd, she seems to have observ'd something that naturally rais'd her admiration. However, 'twas not matter it self, for this appear'd equally mean and contemptible in its several shapes and modifications: but what idea is she to form of the astonishing harmony and order, which shines in the oeconomy of its several parts? How just is the relation throughout! how regular the proportions! how exact the concatenation of subordinate causes and effects! On the other side, what a majesty appears in the general disposition of the design! what a noble simplicity in the execution! what a constant uniformity in its duration! How was matter thus capable of forming the most magnificent, the most ravishing of all spectacles? How desirous soever the Creator of so glorious a work may be to conceal himself, 'tis impossible but his finger must be seen on this occasion: his power must necessarily be infinite, otherwise he could never have produc'd so many wonderful

derful things out of so contemptible a substance as matter. Nor can his wisdom be less infinite than his power, in thus exhibiting himself so conspicuously, in the order and disposition of his work. Lastly, that his goodness is equal to his wisdom and power, appears from his having taken such pleasure, in diffusing so much splendor and ornament over his creatures,

HERE the philosophical soul, which I suppose to be still fix'd in attention, perceives its comparing and reflecting faculty wholly reawak'd. She recalls, in an extacy of joy, the first ideas which prompted her to make those enquiries; and begins to find, in a very sensible manner, that they are no longer shadowy, but real. That unknown Being, whom she perceiv'd only by the vague and random ideas she had of order and perfection, then reveals it self in an almost sensible manner. And now all her doubts must vanish soon: she has found what she sought after: 'tis the Creator of all things, and consequently the author of her being; 'tis the source of life, and the principle of universal light; 'tis the fountain of order, wisdom, goodness, justice, and of all virtues and perfections, or rather 'tis order itself; wisdom, justice and

goodness are its offence. 'Tis all virtue, all perfection, and all excellency.

A PHILOSOPHER that could once raise himself to this happy point of knowledge, justly believes he has attain'd to the highest degree of illumination, to which his soul was capable of ascending. All the rest consists only in displaying and exercising it. Henceforwards he will proceed from science to science, that is, from certainty to certainty. What a prodigious field is here open'd! He is at once sensible of the truth of all his ideas; and of the infallibility of his judgments, in case he examines things attentively. As he was form'd by a Being, whose wisdom and goodness are infinite; he is persuaded, that the qualities which it indulged him, are not specious and deceitful. The same intelligence which endued him with those exalted ideas of order, justice, goodness and wisdom, cannot possibly abandon him in less difficult researches: having now discover'd the principles, the study of the consequences will be easy and agreeable.

FIRST, he enquires anew into the nature of his soul, in order to discover more clearly therein the finger of his Creator. (Since he discover'd such divine touches in
matter

matter only, what may he not expect to find in a Being of an infinitely more exalted nature? And indeed, he perceives two things in it, which are great above all comparison. The first is the faculty of thinking, which enables him to know and multiply his lights to infinitude; a faculty of so exalted a nature, that he himself, tho' possessed of it, is very much puzzled how to explain it. He perceives much better what it is not, than what it is. It does not bear the least resemblance to matter, whose numberless shapes and motions can never produce any thing like a thought. Neither is it that harmony, order, justness and perfection, which result from a certain disposition of the several parts of matter. For in case this harmony and perfection have a real and proper existence, then the faculty of thinking must be dependent on that of matter; and the soul is conscious that hers is wholly independent on any thing of a material nature. The very reluctance and uneasiness the soul feels, to find herself subject to the body, in some of her operations, is a natural proof that she does not owe any thing to the latter; and would willingly be disengaged from it, were she not united to it by certain

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laws. Besides, were the soul no more than the order, the harmony and perfection of the body; how could it possibly be of greater extent than the body itself? Its dimensions would then correspond exactly with the parts of the body, to which it belongs. Now the soul finds itself more extensive than the whole mass united; she soars infinitely above, and perceives the bounds of matter; and therefore she must be wholly independent on it; — But what is she then? Possibly she will not be allow'd to have a more perfect knowledge of her self, 'till another season, and in another state; however, this she knows certainly, *viz.* that she is a thinking being: an inestimable advantage, which alone sufficiently proves the dignity and infinite greatness of her Creator.

This first mark of a divine artist, is undoubtedly the most illustrious; but then 'tis not the only one worthy the notice of the philosopher. The philosopher turns his eyes inward, and contemplates but a moment: what does he to perceive? — I should not say perceive, for it here ceases to go by that name; he now feels within himself a secret inclination, an active principle, which pushes him

him forward to something he does not yet know.—How shall he define this sensation? 'Tis the exigency of some unknown want, which requires to be filled; If it be not a pain, 'tis at least the privation of a necessary pleasure. He pants after a certain good, without which he cannot be easy; it attracts him incessantly; he is prompted to seek after it by an involuntary impulse; and dragg'd away, as it were, by an irresistible ascendant.

He then finds, he is not only susceptible of desires, but that some of these are stronger and less limited than the knowledge which irradiates his mind. This reflection startles him at first; for he does not immediately see through the wise disposition with which the Creator has order'd all things. He first considers his desires as a natural confession, and a mortifying testimony of the imperfection of his being; which gives him the greater pain, as he does not at first find out the object of them, and how long they may continue. Importunate clouds, which are of no other use but to ruffle the eternity of his soul! Afflicting interruption, which will check the progress of his knowledge; and prevent him from calmly employing the faculty of thinking with
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which

which he is inform'd! Though he does not dare to complain of his Creator, or suspect his wisdom and goodness; he at least sighs when he reflects on his own condition; it lessens the high idea he had entertain'd of his own greatness; and in order to save, in some measure, the remains of it; he resolves, if possible, to suppress and extinguish his desires, in order to devote himself, by the exercise of a more noble faculty, to the contemplation of truth. But he cannot continue long in this error; for the moment he has made some little advances towards truth, he finds that she was the object of his desires. He cannot mistake in this; for his heart glows as he approaches towards her. This inquietude now seems upon the point of subsiding, and his cravings of being fill'd. He imagines, that either truth was made for him, or at least himself for truth. 'Tis certain, that the more he discovers of her, the more eager he is to discover her thoroughly. But now his desires are far from giving him pain; 'tis the state of a man who is possessed of so much felicity, that he cannot sufficiently satiate himself with it; he is happy, and would be more so. In this manner does the philosopher meet with a fresh source
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of content and admiration, in those things which before gave him pain. What he consider'd as an imperfection in himself, now appears to him a fresh indication of the infinite perfections of his Creator. He not only sees that he was form'd by him; but he feels that he was formed for him only. His desires are found adapted, as it were, to his ideas. By his ideas he knows himself to be the work of his hand; and his desires draw him towards that Being, as the supreme good, and the fountain of all his happiness.

THAT man who has been always immers'd in sense; and perhaps never consider'd the two principal faculties of his mind; is incapable of conceiving the joy with which those sublime, those important discoveries inspire a philosophical soul.—No; this he is not capable of, for were he so, he would be jealous of it, and despise every other species of joy. And indeed we are hence to date the happy course of a rational and truly philosophical life. Whosoever has known his Creator and himself, may, if he pleases, tread unerringly the paths of wisdom and happiness. The way is open to him; and he never loses sight of the end of his course. Directed by his understand-

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ing;

ing, at the same time that he is excited by his desires; he is equally incapable of going astray thro' ignorance, or stopping in his way thro' faintness. If he is bound, as being a man, by some ties with the creatures of his own species, he does all that duty requires of him; and takes his conduct in this particular, from the source of that order and justice which he is perpetually contemplating. The ties of blood, such as tenderness and affection for relatives; the duties of humanity, such as kindness, mildness, forgetfulness of injuries, and compassion for the sufferings of others; those of reason, such as evenness of mind, constancy, a contempt of superfluity, and a moderate use of necessaries, are the many consequences which flow naturally from his principles, and form his system of morality. He copies, in some measure, after his Creator, and aggrandizes himself by imitating the sovereign perfections by which he is pleased to reveal himself. Besides; society with mankind is not an obstacle to wisdom, for such as love, and enquire sincerely after it; so far from it, he finds the acquaintance of his fellow-creatures useful. Did I not say, that they all bore the image of their Creator? This the

the philosopher perceives, tho' they unhappily disfigure it. This is a sight which strengthens his desires; he draws an advantage from the effects of their irregular passions; their arts, their sciences, most of which owe their invention to interest and vanity, are by him made subservient to his views, as being so many succours which extend his knowledge. These are excellent effects of a bad cause, which he rectifies and refines more and more, by the use he puts them to; and thus applies them to what they were originally design'd. In fine, he makes a considerable advantage of even the very sight of the frailties and silly bustles of mankind. The comparison he makes of these, with the vigour and perpetual calm of his mind, strengthens him still more in his principles; makes his happiness dearer to him, and the fruits of his researches more precious. He devotes himself without reserve to wisdom, being prompted to love her from this double motive; *viz.* because he is happy through her, and finds that without her he would be stupid and miserable.

WHAT after this is wanting to entitle him justly to the name of wise man? Let us summon up all our knowledge, and

the collected force of reason, in order to form to ourselves a more just idea of such a person. Possibly some may give a greater extent to this character, but I am of opinion 'tis impossible to entertain a more sublime one. 'Tis in this happy state that the philosopher ought to be equally insensible, both to those evils which may make him lose that title, and to those good things which he may receive from another cause; the former ought not to have power enough, to force a single pang from him; and the latter should appear too contemptible in his eyes to give him a real pleasure. It must be confess'd, that the soul is naturally subjected to the organs of the body; 'tis impossible but she must see when the eyes are open; hear, when the nerves of the ear are shaken; and feel, the instant any extraordinary motion happens in that portion of matter to which she is united. But can this sensation lessen her greatness, or weaken her liberty? The soul rejects it, whenever she finds it unworthy the excellency of her nature; at least, she receives it without fixing upon, or consenting to it. The more her dependence on the body incommodes and humbles her, the greater consolation this administers;

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as it thereby plainly shews her, that so violent a state cannot last long. How would it be possible for her to doubt of this? She is too well acquainted with the invariable laws of primitive and eternal order. The order of nature is only an exception to this; she is even sure, that they hold to one another by some secret tye, tho' she cannot perceive it yet, and expects a season of manifestation and light; when all obscurities and exceptions ceasing, she then will see every thing return to its end, and re-enter peaceably into the general order. She therefore finds herself created for another state; she has already attain'd it, in some measure, by the ardency of her desires and the certainty of her hopes; and perpetually indifferent with regard to every thing that cannot prevent her from attaining it one day; she despises pleasure, considers grief as nothing, and views the hurry and agitation of all things round her without the least emotion; and would be equally insensible were this fabrick of the universe and all nature destroy'd.

SUCH are the foundations on which I believ'd my strength and constancy fix'd; and such were the instructions I had imbib'd in my infancy. The studies I had
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gone through, my mother's example and her precepts, had always turn'd on these principles. They were become, in some measure, natural to me, because they had been so frequently inculcated, and as I revolv'd them incessantly in my mind. And indeed, they had made an impression on my heart, so long as they found no obstacle. They had been the rule of my life, whilst it was calm and untroubled. I imagin'd myself to be a philosopher; and perhaps I was truly so, before I was arriv'd at a certain degree of misery and ill fortune. But 'twas this very reflection that confounded, and made me have a suspicion of philosophy itself. For why did it abandon me when I found it most necessary? What idea could I entertain of a remedy, which vanish'd away the instant the disease discover'd itself? Nevertheless, I could not deny but that the principles I had re-examin'd, were as solid as ever. Nothing in the world is certain, would I say, nothing is to be depended upon; if that which now appears to me to be founded invincibly on such clear arguments, is all sophism and an unhappy illusion. If what I have constantly follow'd was true wisdom, why does she not make me reap the benefits
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she had promised! And in case I have mistaken error for truth, how deplorable am I, to be at one and the same time tortur'd by sorrow, and abandon'd by reason!

I THEN reflected, that possibly my complaints might be without foundation; for I consider'd that it was not enough to know the excellence of a remedy; but that before it can be properly apply'd, it is necessary the nature of the disease should be known. I thereupon examin'd carefully, in what sorrow properly consisted; and soon found, that as it is a mere sensation of the soul, and not to be represented by ideas; we therefore cannot define it better, than by the word *sorrow*, by which it is express'd: For to call it simply an aversion of the soul, as some philosophers do, gives an obscure and very imperfect definition of it. In general therefore, since we are in the dark, even as to the nature of the soul, we cannot pretend to explain what a sensation is. Now if it be impossible to know in what sorrow consists; 'tis manifest that the remedy is not to be directly apply'd to it; for this would be repugnant to reason. Hence I easily concluded, that it was necessary for me to go back to the cause of it.

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I DID

I did not enquire into all the different methods by which the sensation of sorrow may be communicated to the soul: all my reflections were relative only to my wants. 'Twas plain my sorrow arose from the death, or infidelity of all I held dear, and the dreadful circumstances which had always been inseparable from my misfortunes. To this cause the disease of my soul was owing. I then asked myself, Whether it were probable that philosophy cou'd dry up this source of my misfortunes? Supposing it capable of working such a miracle, I conceiv'd there were but three methods by which it could prove effectual. The first was, to remove from that spectacle of my misfortunes, which was incessantly present to my mind, the strong ascendant it had gain'd over me; which not satisfied with filling me with the sharpest pangs, sometimes forced involuntary cries from me; and which I myself should not have perceiv'd, had it not been for the astonishment of those who liv'd with me, and were terrified when they heard them. What likelihood was there that philosophy could produce so astonishing an effect! Could even heaven itself do this without changing the nature of things? 'Tis contradictory

contradictory to think that one can lose a beloved object and not be grieved. But in case one loves with a most tender, a most perfect passion; if what one loves so dearly, happens to be lost by a most cruel death, or the blackest treachery; what can possibly stop the transports and tears, which these dreadful shocks must necessarily excite? A devouring flame does not fly swifter, or prove more fatal: I was sensible, that philosophy might possibly have preserv'd me from the excesses of love and friendship; but having once open'd my heart to those two passions, I saw plainly, that all their effects were as necessary; and that misfortunes whose strength was founded in those two causes, were above the power of philosophy,

THE second method which philosophy might suggest to ease my sorrow, was, to endue me with as much strength to support my misfortunes, as they had employ'd in making me feel the weight of them. A lovely idea! alas! since it delights my rational faculties, why does it not also work on my heart? Experience, more powerful than all arguments, inform'd me continually that the soul is not to expect any succour from its ideas, when
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these interfere with its sensations. I did not even think it possible, to image to myself a new situation of my soul, in which it could be less disturb'd. An increase of strength and knowledge must necessarily heighten my anguish, since these would have made me more susceptible of their impressions.

FINALLY, the third method was to divert insensibly the principal causes of my sorrow; and to impose, as it were, upon my soul, by accustoming it insensibly to employ itself on another object. I at first look'd upon this kind of cure as wanton and frivolous; and therefore rejected it sooner than I had done the two former. I nevertheless came back to this, as being the most solid, when I consider'd it was the only one which was feasible. 'Tis certain, says I, my misfortunes are of such a nature, that they must necessarily affect my mind, so long as it continues to meditate on them. Nor is it less sure, that my soul cannot acquire strength enough to resist this sensation, either from herself or from philosophy; and consequently, that she must lay aside all hopes of ease and happiness, so long as she continues to entertain it. But why may I not hope, that she may fix on an-
other

other object, which may insensibly divert her to another sensation? So great a change as this, cannot undoubtedly be wrought in an instant; but 'tis plain it may be brought about by slow degrees. Yes, says I, this is a service philosophy only is capable of doing me, or that I will expect from her. I was, perhaps, on the point of condemning her unjustly. What I, indeed, requir'd of her is really impossible, because it is contrary to nature; but then, what philosophy offers me here, is vastly reasonable: she may gain a complete ascendant over my mind, by filling it insensibly with those sublime truths which she will propose to its consideration; the heart, all whose impulses are blind, turns it self infallibly towards the objects of the mind. Mine will therefore be easy, when I shall be employ'd in a peaceable meditation; and by this means, I shall attain quiet, felicity and wisdom.

THIS reflection reconcil'd me for some moments to philosophy. I flatter'd my self that she would produce a wish'd for effect on me, at least for the future; and I pass, from this hope, to the following reflection; viz. that 'twas undoubtedly in this sense we are to explain the elogiums
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which have been given her in all ages; and the power which has been ascrib'd to her of healing the diseases of the soul. But heaven, which had surer remedies, and such as were better adapted to my evils in store, permitted this thought to be attended with a new reflection, which plung'd me afresh into my uncertainties; and made me conceive as unfavourable an idea of philosophy as I had ever done. She will then, says I, cure me by diverting my attention from my sorrows. But in case this be all the power she has over our souls, resumed I on a sudden, in what does her particular advantage consist? I don't perceive any thing in this effect that is peculiar to her self; or which may not be justly expected from the most trite and common sciences. Why do I say sciences? Every empty and trifling occupation must produce it much more infallibly; for the representation of a comedy, for instance; an harmonious concert of musick; a party of hunting, or an entertainment; in a word, whatever can be capable of making a strong impression on the senses, will attract my mind more powerfully than dry and ungrateful speculations, which alone, have not the power of affecting my heart. The so much
boasted

boasted virtue of philosophy; and the sovereign empire which it is said to have over the passions, is, said I, in a kind of passion, then reduc'd only to this! Impotent phantom, which I have too long rever'd; and in which I had so foolishly plac'd all my confidence! No, no, says I, I will no longer be the sport of vain, senseless wisdom. In case I had reason to be persuaded that heaven is so gracious, as to indulge a remedy for the maladies of the soul; I should also have consider'd, that this cannot be such a weak and empty remedy, as is unable to operate alone. I require one which will heal infallibly; and since philosophy is incapable of this, I therefore suspect its efficacy, and shall henceforwards not desire its assistance.

I should have gain'd a considerable advantage, in thus discovering the weakness of all philosophical speculations; had I, at the same time, found any thing more solid to ground my hopes upon. But then, tho' I rejected a faithless support, I did not find either my perplexity or sorrows diminish. So far from it, they were to increase; because, as I had nothing to substitute in the place of the phantom which I had destroy'd, I remain'd,

main'd; in some measure, more naked and defenceless. And, indeed, I was, for several days after, inexpressibly dejected. Every thing was troublesome, and seem'd to conspire to heighten my uneasiness. The authors which I had hitherto idoliz'd, now became odious and insupportable, I consider'd them as so many impostors, who had seduc'd me with false promises, and abandon'd me cruelly in my distress. I now kept away from my study, purposely that I might shun their presence; imagining, that when I was in the midst of my library, I was surrounded with a multitude of false friends. I could not bear to hear *Plato* or *Seneca* nam'd before me, and more than once resolv'd to burn their works. All I did, for seven or eight days, was to walk solitarily up and down a pretty large garden, which belong'd to my house; where I was plung'd in an abyss of fatal and gloomy meditations. Mrs. *Lallin* and my sister-in-law were very uneasy, lest I should have a fit of sickness, and watch'd all my steps; but I told them at once, that their solicitude was painful to me, and absolutely desir'd them not to interrupt my deep contemplation.

THERE

THERE are few people, who, were they to relate such an adventure as the following, but would think themselves oblig'd, for reputation sake, to disguise some circumstances of it. As for my self, having always been of opinion, that the principle upon which we proceed, makes an action good or bad, and consequently that the motive only can make it dishonourable; I therefore am not ashamed to give a genuine account of my self, and to make an ingenuous confession of my faults in a publick manner. 'Tis enough that I can give this honourable testimony of my self, viz. that my heart was ever inclin'd to follow the inspirations of virtue and wisdom; and that tho' it has sometimes been mistaken in its object, its intentions were always just and honourable.

So far from meeting with the comfort, which I expected the solitude of my garden would administer; the melancholy reflections I there made, heighten'd my affliction in such a manner, that I soon was seiz'd with a dreadful and most dangerous disease. I cannot give the reader a stronger idea of it, than by calling it an *incurable* *barred to life*. 'Tis a kind of delirious frenzy, which is found to
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rage more among my countrymen, the *English*, than the rest of the *Europeans*. But since this disease is look'd upon as almost peculiar to our nation, 'tis surprising that it should have had such violent effects upon me; I having spent so many years in foreign countries; and as I was at that time in *France*, which boasts so pure an air, that my countrymen fly to it for refuge, against that gloomy disposition of the soul. 'Twould be a difficult matter for me to describe the several gradations I went through, which at last brought me to the utmost excess of folly and blindness: but a circumstance which will appear incredible to my readers, is, that I look'd, for some days, upon my furious transports, as the effect of the highest wisdom; and I don't think that I ever, in my life, form'd more methodical arguments, than those which hurried me to the brink of the most dreadful precipice.

'Twas the third day after I had thrown my books aside, that I observ'd the first symptoms of the disease abovemention'd: these were so furious, that had I had a dagger in my hand, I should, in my transports, have plung'd it into my heart. However, as there was suddenly a strange revolution in my inward faculties, I soon perceiv'd

perceiv'd that I was unaccountably chang-
ed. This reflection making me more at-
tentive, I immediately discover'd, but af-
ter a blind and involuntary manner, the
state of my soul. But a surprizing cir-
cumstance is, that I was not any way un-
easy upon that account. My disorder'd
brain had already deprav'd my reason.
I instantly made the idea of death fami-
liar to me; and was astonish'd only,
that I had so long delay'd the resolution
of putting an end to my life; a resolu-
tion, methoughts, equally happy and
necessary. I have sought, says I, for a
remedy to heal the disease of the soul,
and have now discover'd it. 'Tis simple,
'tis short, and perfectly well adapted to
my evils. How blind was I not to have
discover'd it before? Yes, says I; its se-
veral characteristicks are a proof of its
excellence. 'Tis easy, 'tis present to all
the wretched; its effects are certain, and
every thing but this appears distasteful
and bitter. How many gates open them-
selves which lead to death? All I have
to do, is to chuse the shortest and safest
way.

My memory did not fail to suggest a
great number of examples, which strength-
ened my resolution. I consider'd that the

greatest men had made this their refuge, to rid themselves of all their evils. Will any one say that this was owing to a want of wisdom and virtue in *Cato*, of sense in *Demosthenes*, or of courage in *Mithridates* and *Mark Anthony*? 'Tis therefore certain, says I, that courage, good sense, virtue, and wisdom, are not incompatible with a voluntary death. Now, a thing which suits so well with the most noble qualities of the soul, all which are the gift of heaven, cannot be an evil, but must even be a virtue. And indeed, does not reason prompt us to wish for death? The most unruffled, the most happy soul, must necessarily groan at its captivity in the body. This is a heavy and obscure state, which she should pant to see ended. The bonds which enthrall her are hard, mortifying, unjust and unnatural; how ardently therefore should she desire to break them?

ALTHO' the resolution which I took of dying, increas'd daily in me; and that I did not perceive any thing in this which interfer'd with reason; I nevertheless had strength enough to suspend the execution of it for some days. This delay was grounded on a motive different from what might be imagin'd. I had no other

other view, but to justify, by new reflections, this strange action to my own mind; and to convince my self more and more, that it would not be condemn'd by heaven. However, it cost me the most violent struggles, before I could prevail with my self to defer it. Every instant which I added to my life, seem'd to me a theft, with regard to my peace and happiness. I spent four whole days, in re-examining the arguments which should prompt me to make choice of death; and I did not find but they were as strong as at first. The only objection which stop't me for some time was the following: my soul, says I, is imprison'd in a body by the will and ordinance of the supreme Being; and there must certainly be some reason, why he keeps her in that captivity. I cannot comprehend the mystery of his impenetrable views; but then I am sure, he cannot guide himself by any rules but those of infinite justice and wisdom. I therefore am bound to revere them, even tho' I am in the dark as to that matter. He has mark'd out the length of my days, consequently, to shorten them, would be to violate his laws. Yes, answer'd I after a long meditation, I undoubtedly violate them, in case I am

as fully persuaded of their existence, as that he himself submitted to them; but in case he should have chang'd them; or at least, interprets them in a different manner with respect to me, than from the generality of mankind, ought not I to obey his last will as implicitly as his first? As he has suffer'd me to fall into the extremes of grief and misery, he consequently has excepted me from the number of those, whom he sentences to live a long course of years. 'Tis morally impossible, as he is a Being whose essence is infinite goodness, that he should delight to see me lead a life of misery; and even the excess of my pangs, is a manifest proof that he permits me to die.

AFTER this conclusion, all that now remain'd for me, was to make choice of the kind of death, and appoint the moment, when I should lay the burthen down. These two circumstances threw me into some little perplexity. At last, I resolv'd a sword should do my business, and not to delay putting my design in execution any longer than that noon. There were several long alleys or walks in the garden, which lay at a considerable distance from the house; one of these I made choice of as best suiting my purpose. A little summer-

summer-house, which was in the most remote corner of it, was to be the scene of this bloody action. I first look'd carefully round me, in order to see whether I could kill my self unperceiv'd by any one; and took all these precautions with surprizing coolness. I was not sensible of the least trouble or uneasiness; my deep sorrow being suspended, as it were, by an anticipated effect of my resolution. As it had but a short time to last, its sting could not be piercing. When a man is going to be rescued from a severe captivity, he reflects but very little on the evils he has suffer'd, and the chains which are going to fall from him; he then thinks of nothing but the sweets he is going to taste, in a state of freedom and liberty.

ACCORDINGLY I walk'd back towards the house, in the utmost composure of mind; and as dinner time was very near, I thought it would be proper, in order to avoid all suspicion, to set once more at table with my family. The two ladies observ'd, that I discover'd an unusual tranquillity of mind; and hinting this to me, I answer'd them in such a manner as confirm'd their opinion. I left them as usual, and taking my sword out of my bed-chamber, I went immediately into the garden.

garden. My mind still enjoy'd a profound calm, and I did not feel the least inquietude, with regard to the life to come. I could not find that I had offended heaven in any thing; and how obscure soever my condition might be after death; I yet inferr'd a kind of certainty, from the general ideas I had form'd of the justice and goodness of my Creator, that nothing unhappy could befall me, in the state into which I was going to enter. I was now got to the summer-house, when I unsheath'd my sword, and view'd a moment the point of it, with the utmost attention. I will not scruple to own, that I was seiz'd with a gentle kind of horror, if I may give it that name, all over me; but this, so far from meriting the name of fear, inspir'd me with a soothing reflection, with regard to the happiness of my soul; which was then going to wing its flight, towards the regions of bliss and glory. I even smil'd at the weakness of my body, and looking upon my self with disdain; thy reign, says I, is at an end; return now to thy primitive dust: If I want thy assistance for a moment more, 'tis only to make thee thy self contribute to our eternal separation.

tion. Omnipotent Being, to whom I owe my origin, added I, shutting my eyes at the same time, and struggling, as it were, to turn them inwards; take pity on thy creature, and direct my steps in the darkness whither I am going. Thou fillest all places, and therefore my soul cannot fail of being receiv'd into thy bosom.

My arm was up-lifted, and 'tis certain there was now but a moment's interval between life and death. Heaven! by what miracle didst thou withhold the point of my sword, which, by this time, was to have pierced my heart? A noise which I heard at a little distance from the summer-house, stopt my hand on a sudden, and made me hide my sword behind me, for fear of being perceiv'd. The noise I heard was made by my children. Mrs. Lallin and my sister-in-law, having observ'd me to be more than ordinary easy at dinner, had sent them after me; in order that their pretty prattle and tender fondling might increase my tranquillity. They came up to me, and after hugging me in the most affectionate manner, they took hold of my hands, and at the same time put several childish and innocent questions to me. I let them a-

lone for a little time, and continu'd in a kind of inactivity, the effect of my uncertainty and surprize. However, as they continu'd to caress, and put their little, simple questions to me, I began to attend to them; and gaz'd upon them for some time, with that tender complacency, which nature is so apt to awake in the heart of a parent. The eldest was not eight years of age, and both of 'em possess'd the most amiable graces of infancy. They are going to ruin me, says I to my self; after my death they will be friendless and undone; abandon'd by an unnatural mother, and bereav'd of their unhappy father. What will become of them? My sister-in-law and Mrs. *Lallin* have hitherto behav'd with the utmost tenderness towards them, but who knows whether they'll continue to do so after I am gone? Will a bare impulse of friendship inspire them with humanity, since their mother was never sensible to that? Heaven! why didst thou permit me to be the second cause of their coming into the world? Is not such an unfortunate wretch as I, a kind of monster in society? How can it be consistent with thy wisdom and goodness, to suffer a race like this to be perpetuated?

THESE

These reflections, added to the black poison which flow'd in my veins and infected my soul, led me insensibly to one of the most shocking resolutions that ever enter'd the human mind; and what will undoubtedly appear incredible, is, that in the series of reflections which I continued still to make, every conclusion I drew, appear'd to me to tend manifestly to the most just and rational principles. I have, says I, taken a resolution of dying, in order to put a period to a life, which is too unhappy to be borne with patience. I am convinc'd, that the Creator not only approves my resolution, but that he himself inspires me with it. Now if I may be allow'd to kill myself, in order to put a period to evils which are incurable; shall I not be permitted to do the same, to prevent inevitable ones? Let me suppose but for a moment, that I happen to be only in the latter circumstance, that is, threatned with a numberless multitude of dreadful and infallible evils: 'tis manifest, that I may do as much this instant to rid myself of a present evil, as I may do hereafter to secure myself from a future one. This is the very case of my children. They are born to the same sad misfortunes as myself; their fate is but

too manifest. Had they nothing to dread but the contagion of my unhappiness, they must naturally expect a life of wretchedness and misery. What better office can I therefore do them, than to prevent their entrance into a series of misfortunes, by dispatching them this instant? We then shall all be waisted to a happy region. They'll die with their father. In case I consider death as a felicity, why do I delay to let my children share it with me?

HAVING ended these arguments, I took them both up in my arms, being still seated; and hanging down my head between them both, I join'd both their cheeks to mine. I now acted without reflection, and by mere instinct. I continu'd for some time in this posture, my mind being still roving and unfix'd; and without daring once to attempt to execute the bloody resolution I had form'd. My heart, which an instant before I found so free and unruffled, was suddenly oppress'd with an unusual weight; and by an effect of this change, which I did not yet perceive, tears gush'd, by intervals, from my eyes. However, when I consider'd my uncertainty, I look'd upon it as a weakness; and thereupon rose up on a sudden.

a sudden. 'Tis done, says I; I'll die, and they shall both accompany me in death. As I am their parent, consequently 'tis incumbent on me to make them happy, if possible; and therefore an idle pity shall not keep me from indulging them the only felicity I am capable of bestowing. The confusion in which I spoke these words was so great, as prevented me from considering, that they had sense enough to understand the meaning of them; so that seeing my drawn sword in my hand, which, as was before observ'd, I had hid behind me, they left the summer-house in the utmost terror. 'Tis here the reader will find it difficult to determine which was most astonishing; my silly and obstinate cruelty, or the respect and submission of my poor children. Exasperated to see them run from me, I call'd them with a threatening tone of voice; when those fearful and innocent victims, accustom'd to obey, even the most insignificant of my commands, immediately return'd back. They cried all the way, and stopping at the door, fell on their knees, as tho' they begg'd me to spare their lives, which they saw but too manifestly I intended to bereave them of. This sight struck me at once; and

I will confess that it touch'd the most intimate recesses of my heart. 'Tis impossible for the highest wisdom, or the most stupid folly, to resist the sensations of nature. My sword dropt from my hand; and so far from resolving any longer to murder my dear children, I found that I could have sacrificed a thousand lives to save theirs. This last impulse was so delightful, that I abandon'd myself entirely to it. Come, says I, dear unfortunate babes, holding out my arms with the utmost tenderness; come, and embrace your unhappy father; come hither, and don't be afraid. My senses were in such disorder, that it had chang'd the tone of my voice, and I endeavour'd in vain to stop my fast-flowing tears. They came up, when I clasp'd them to my bosom, in the utmost transports of joy, which suppress'd all their fears. The youngest, whose name was *Thomas*, and who was my darling, enquir'd of me, with the simplicity of a child of his age, why I design'd to kill him? This question being ask'd, in a tender and fearful tone of voice, pierc'd my heart. I answer'd him no otherwise than by embracing him afresh; and all I could do, for some moments, was to sigh, and shed tears.

NEVER.

NEVERTHELESS, as my imagination had been fill'd, for several days, with the design I had form'd, and the preparations I had made to dispatch my self; notwithstanding so great a change was now wrought in me, it yet was scarce possible for those dreadful ideas of death to vanish so very soon, and be quite eraz'd. I was sensible of the danger I was in, in case they should again present themselves to my imagination with their former violence; and therefore, being resolv'd that my children, at least, should be out of danger, I order'd them to go back into the house. They obey'd instantly, without saying one word.

BEING thus left alone, I recollected the past incidents, but was at first in doubt, whether I ought to thank heaven, as though it had herein indulg'd me a favour; or reproach my self for it as a weakness. In case I suppos'd, that just and solid arguments had brought me to a resolution of dying; there was no doubt but the opposite sensation, which had prompted the execution of it, both upon my children and my self, argued a weakness of mind. But then, in case the old principle of my mother's philosophy, viz. that all the impulses of nature are just,

just, and consistent with order and regularity; if this principle, I say, sacred to her memory, by which I had so often squar'd my conduct, was as just as it always appear'd to be; what idea ought I to entertain of my last arguments; since they oppos'd directly the most necessary, and strongest impulses of nature? There was no medium in this case; for either I must acknowledge that reason had impos'd upon me, in thus prompting me to commit an action which was shocking to nature; or that the inspirations of the latter were unjust and clash'd with order and regularity, in case they were repugnant to reason, which is itself the standard of regularity. To what side soever I might turn the scale, this could not be done 'till after a long examination; and such an enquiry was too important and too delicate, to be the work of a moment. I therefore put off the consideration of this obscure problem, which was to decide whether I should live or die. But tho' my only view in this delay, was, to prevent my undertaking any thing with a rashness which prudence might afterwards condemn; I easily perceiv'd, that some change was wrought in my disposition. Whether it were, that

that the black melancholy which had seiz'd me, began to dispel of itself, or that a paternal tenderness had occasion'd a strong revolution in my spirits; I perceiv'd, that I did not so ardently wish to die as I had done before.

But had my desire in that respect been more urgent, it yet would have been impossible for me to have satisfied it that day. The children were gone back into the house, as I had order'd them. Terror had been so strongly painted in their countenances, that it was impossible but the two ladies must perceive it. They had enquir'd into the reasons of it; and tho' the children would not tell them the truth of the affair (which they had the discretion to hide, but upon what motive I know not) they yet discover'd enough to make them very uneasy. Their affection for me made them hasten into the garden. I heard them coming down the walk; and not doubting but the strange story the children had told them, had brought them thither; I thought, with some confusion, on the part I was going to act. However, I had time enough to hide my sword before they came into the summer-house. Being come in, I waited for their speaking.

ing. They gave me the most obliging marks of their uneasiness upon my account; but I found they were entirely in the dark, as to my late horrid design; and I endeavour'd to put on a chearfulness, which might remove every suspicion of that kind. This was never known but to my children, who could never erase the remembrance of it from their minds; and to the lord *Clarendon*, who being my fast friend, I did not scruple to acquaint him with it; so that I here reveal to the publick one of my most intimate secrets.

HOWEVER, Mrs. *Lallin* and my sister-in-law, who had an eye upon all my steps, and too much sense to be impos'd upon by appearances; would not wholly trust to the serenity of countenance which I had assum'd before them. Tho' they could not hit upon the very thing, they yet judg'd with reason, that something extraordinary must have happen'd: and being very desirous of preventing, what their friendship for me made them apprehensive of, they agreed to find out some recreations for me, which I till then had absolutely refus'd to take. *Sau-mur* abounded with persons of merit and learning. They directed themselves to the

the most eminent of these; and acquainting them how much I stood in need of consolation, they engaged them to visit me frequently. But as they fear'd I would refuse to accept of this remedy, in case I happen'd to know they had procur'd it for me; they agreed with the gentlemen who were to be my visitants, how they should act, in order that I might approve of the motive of their visits.

THE first who did me that honour, was one of the principal ministers of the protestant churches in *France*. My servant, who had been instructed by the two ladies, came and told me, that a person of great distinction desir'd very earnestly to speak with me, upon business of the highest importance. I was displeas'd at first with his importunity; however, I thought my self oblig'd to see him, and accordingly he was introduc'd. He had a grave aspect, when immediately he acquainted me with the design of his visit; saying, that having heard I had been for some time in *Saumur*, and had a great share in the king of *England's* favour; he therefore thought he might address me with confidence, in order to interest me in the support of the protestant religion, which,

which, he said, was now, more than ever, in want of a powerful protector. Our religion is, says he, at this time, threaten'd with so dreadful a blow in *France*, that 'tis on the brink of destruction. The hatred which the clergy bear us, breaks out upon a thousand occasions. We are inform'd by persons of undoubted veracity, that they are resolv'd to have all our privileges abolish'd; and being thoroughly acquainted with the spirit of our persecutors, we expect every moment to be treated with the greatest cruelty. Possibly it would be better for us to avoid the storm by a voluntary flight; but then we are in doubt whether or no they will suffer us to fly. Nevertheless, as we shall one day or other be forc'd to attempt it, we think it proper to fix betimes upon an asylum; especially upon account of this university, which is consider'd by us as the center of arts and sciences, and the sanctuary of our holy religion.

UPON this, the doctor let me more particularly into his design, with regard to *England*. The plan he laid down was so regular, that it could not possibly have been the work of a moment; and therefore he certainly had meditated upon it, before

before the two ladies had entreated him to visit me. What he principally desir'd, was, to obtain of the king of *Great Britain* a place for the university of *Sau-mur* to settle in, and he thought *Winchester* or *Southampton* the most proper for that purpose. We there, says he, will make arts and sciences flourish. So great a number of my countrymen, who would certainly leave their native country to follow us, must necessarily increase the strength and riches of *Great Britain*; not to mention that heaven would certainly indulge its blessings to an establishment which should be founded wholly on piety and zeal.

AFTER having listen'd to him a considerable time, in order that I might be thoroughly acquainted with his whole scheme; I told him ingenuously, that though I had never adher'd to the protestant religion in particular; and had hitherto confin'd my self wholly to that of nature, which teaches us to honour God as the only supreme Being, and to love his creatures because they were form'd by him; yet these two principles alone prompted me to do all the service that lay in my power to my fellow creatures: that the violence and injustice of those
who

who persecute religion, prompted me the more to this, as I was persuaded that mankind ought to be free, at least in whatever relates to divine worship; and consequently, that nothing can be more unjust than to tyrannize over their consciences. I added, that this last reason had made me chuse to live in *Saumur*, preferable to any other part of *France*; because, tho' I was not directly acquainted with the tenets of the protestant religion, I yet had heard that one of them was, *not to force any person*; and to consider that worship as most agreeable to the Divine Being, which was most sincere. But, says I, 'tis not in my power to assist you in what is desir'd of me; and I am afraid that all I can do, is to wish your design may meet with success.

THIS answer gave the doctor a double advantage, in the design he had to visit me, by way of administering comfort: and he immediately put it in practice with so much civility and address, that I did not once suspect he had been put upon it. With regard, says he, sir, to your power, I know very well the service it may be to us, for don't imagine that you're altogether unknown in this city. We have heard of the favour which his

British majesty shewed you in *Roan* and *Bayonne*; as also the services you endeavour'd to do him in the *West-Indies*. If you'll permit me to doubt of any thing, 'twould be rather of your good wishes; for since you own you are not acquainted with the principles of our religion, I can't see any circumstance that should prompt you to favour us. Upon this, he desir'd I would give him leave to visit me sometimes, in order to lay down the substance of the protestant religion; and thereby engage me in its defence from much stronger motives, than the general ideas of natural equity; or the aversion I might entertain against violence and persecution.

THIS offer put me into a dilemma. The reader has already seen, in the course of this history, how I stood affected with regard to religion. As my mother had taken particular care, to preserve me from prejudices of every kind in my infancy; I consequently had all the liberty requisite for making a disinterested choice, when I should come to years of discretion. But this very liberty I had of choosing, had hitherto kept me from embracing any. The different opinions of which the several sects are form'd, had struck
me

me prodigiously; and having consider'd them with the coolness which is natural to unprejudic'd minds; I could not discover any thing at first sight, which should engage me to prefer any one of them to all the rest. The arguments I had employ'd on that occasion were these. Suppose, says I, that there are fifty sects: now there is not one of these but condemns all the rest, and imagines itself only to be in the right. But then, the remaining forty nine, which ascribe to themselves the same prerogatives, condemn it also. In case I interrogate them apart, or all together, I still find forty nine voices against one; and one voice only in its favour, and that too its own. Consequently there are forty nine motives against one, to reject the rest, and make one believe them to be absolutely false. However, I'll suppose that forty nine only are in the wrong, which I must necessarily do, in case one is certainly in the right. Now am I ever the nearer by laying down this hypothesis? How will it be possible for me to know, which of them is in possession of that precious treasure, truth? And in case, after having weigh'd this matter deliberately, I should at last fancy I had discover'd some glimmerings

merings of light in this labyrinth of opinions; how shall I be able to depend merely upon my own judgment, which is to be my only guide rather than on the forty nine testimonies, which will persist constantly in declaring that I am in the wrong? 'Twill be to no purpose to answer, that on subjects of so important a nature as religion is, we ought to suspect every thing which does not exhibit itself clearly to the mind; and consequently, that an inward degree of certainty, is equivalent to forty nine exterior testimonies; this answer, I say, is a very weak one; for religion is equally important to all men in all sects; and I cannot suppose with any shadow of reason, that I am the only person in the world, who is concerned for the welfare of his soul, and passionately fond of truth.

THIS argument had prevented me from embracing the principles of any particular sect, either in *England, France,* or the *West-Indies*; and I had no manner of inclination to build my faith upon other people's notions. I neither had been allow'd time or opportunity to instruct my self in religious matters; so that I had always suspended the consideration of them, 'till a proper season might present itself.

itself. I must add, that philosophy had suggested a religion, which agreed exactly with what I looked upon to be reason. This I before observed in the account I gave of my government in the *West-Indies*; and the scheme of religious ceremonies I there drew up for the use of the savages. In a word, the highest awe and veneration for the majesty and power of the supreme Being; the utmost gratitude for his favours, and submission to his will; a great integrity, charity and temperance, had form'd the essence of my religion 'till I came to *Saumur*.

THE minister's proposal threw me at first into a kind of dilemma; so that I continued silent for some time before I made him any answer. What occasion, says I to myself, is there for me to acquire new lights, which will neither make me wiser, or add to my tranquillity? As I worship the Creator of all things with sincerity, can any thing heighten the love and respect I bear him; and why should I perplex myself with questions which no ways concern me? However, a short reflection I made on the emptiness of philosophy, which I had exclaim'd so much against two days before, made me desirous of hearing the doctor discourse on religious

ous topicks. He appear'd to be a man of good sense ; and I therefore imagin'd that he might suggest some new hints, which would perhaps produce the peace of mind I so much panted after, by some method I as yet was a stranger to. I continued silent for some time, to his great surprize ; but at last, assur'd him in the politest terms, that I should be always proud to hear whatever he had to offer.

I CANNOT say, whether the great desire he seemingly had to instruct me, was owing to a zeal for my conversion ; or proceeded merely from compassion to see me so prodigiously dejected. The doctor left me, and return'd the same afternoon. He laid down his instructions in a very methodical manner. In his first conversation, he laid before me a general plan of religion, in order, as he said, that I might discover at one glance, the connexion of its several parts. I shall not repeat his words here, because they undoubtedly will not be so new to my readers as they were then to me ; but I will confess that I was pleas'd to hear him ; and that his system appeared so rational, that I could not but wish it were in his power to support it afterwards by solid proofs. He was overjoy'd to leave me in this frame of

mind, and assur'd me that his satisfaction would increase every time he visited me.

I TOLD my sister and Mrs. *Lallin* in the evening, that I had been very well pleased with the minister's conversation; and had approv'd of his notions in religious matters. My sister, who could not but be very zealous for the protestant interest, as she had been brought up in the colony of *St. Helena*, seem'd vastly pleased at what I told her: which Mrs. *Lallin* was not, she being a *Roman catholic*. But while she was so much mistress of herself, as to discover what pass'd in her mind, only by her silence; she was considering, while my sister and I continued in discourse, what methods she should employ, to prevent the effect of the minister's zeal. She did not know till now, that I was unsettled with regard to religion; and when she and my sister had agreed to endeavour, if possible, to prevail with the clergyman to visit me; her only view in this was to procure a remedy to my sorrows. But finding that she had innocently contributed to give me an opportunity of having an esteem for the protestant religion, and being afraid lest I should embrace the principles of it; she reproach'd herself

self for it, and thereupon resolved to atone for what she look'd upon as an imprudence of a very guilty nature; she therefore resolv'd to search for antidotes, to expell the poison she fancied I had drank in, the very next morning; and accordingly going to the fathers of the oratory, she was admitted to the superior whose name was father *la Bane*; when telling him her scruples and perplexity, she begg'd him to advise her how to act upon this occasion. The father, having heard the whole affair relating to me, was himself enflamed with zeal; and did not doubt but he should be able to make a convert of me, when he was told that I had convers'd but twice with the doctor. He acquainted Mrs. *Lallin* with the hopes he entertain'd; and promised to pay me a visit very soon, upon some pretence or other which he'd invent for that purpose. ACCORDINGLY he came to my house, two or three hours before dinner, and enquiring for me, I receiv'd him in a very civil manner. This father had a subtle, and at the same time a winning aspect; his whole air was vastly engaging, and he address'd me in a most agreeable manner. The pretence he employ'd to give a colour to his visit, was indeed something flat

and foreign to the purpose; however, as I had not the least suspicion of the design he was come upon, I judg'd his compliment to be sincere; and assur'd him that I was very glad the motives, which he told me had prompted him to visit me, gave me an opportunity of being acquainted with him. Never man insinuated himself with greater art and cunning than father *le Bane* did. He in a moment made the discourse turn on religion; and without discovering the least affectation, or enquiring into my principles; he gave me a sketch of the principal tenets of the *Roman catholic* faith, much after the same manner as the minister had done. At first I was so much surpriz'd at the resemblance which methoughts appear'd between the two doctrines; that having as yet but an imperfect idea of both, I imagin'd the father of the oratory was a protestant. I told him, that the night before, most of the principles he now discover'd to me, had been explain'd by Mr. C—— the minister; and that being thoroughly satisfied with the two systems which I thought agreed, I only waited for the proofs of them. Gracious heaven! says father *le Bane*, you do me, Sir, the highest injury, to imagine I agree in principles with
Mr.

Mr. C——. What ! forsake truth, to strike into the paths of error ? God preserve me from so much wickedness ! But heaven has indulged me too much understanding and uprightness, never to suffer me to do that. — I was prodigiously affected with his sudden exclamation. Figure to your self, says the father interrupting me, a lawful monarch, for whom his subjects have the highest awe and veneration, establishing such laws as will make them happy ; imagine that these are receiv'd and executed for many years, by his parliament and his people, to the real advantage of the whole nation. Whilst blessings thus pour in upon them, there starts up a few obscure persons, from among the dregs of the people ; who, prompted either by private resentment, or from a love of novelty ; immediately set all their engines at work, to destroy the peace and tranquillity of the kingdom, by trampling upon these just and salutary laws. But, as these wicked innovators find it to their advantage to use discretion, in order to encrease their followers ; they therefore don't attempt to overthrow all their laws at once, but censure such as they think the most grievous, in hopes of being join'd by all such

as are friends to licentiousness and independence. They indeed are so fortunate as to strengthen their party. At last, to give the better colour to their rebellion and insolence, they affect to have the utmost veneration for some of these laws, and to revere them as much as the most faithful subjects. Can you think, says the father after looking upon me a moment or two, that persons of so different a character can agree together? They, never can, says I. Now which of the two parties, continues he, would you look upon as the right; those who are good subjects and firm in their allegiance, or —? This question, says I, is immediately answer'd; those who observe the laws which you suppose just and useful. And how, continued he, would you have the others treated? Methinks, says I, it were but just, and for the good of the public, that they should be punish'd as rebels and disturbers of the publick peace? You may now, says father *le Bane*, make the application. The good, the old party, are of the church of *Rome*. All particular sects started up since, and the protestants were the last. These are so many rebellious parties, who have attack'd from time to time our most holy laws;

laws; and in case they preserv'd any, 'twas only with a view of more surely destroying the rest. We refuse absolutely to agree with them, even in such matters as are common to both. We cut them off from us; and give them up to divine justice, which will punish them with much greater severity, in the day destin'd for vengeance.

I WAS not sufficiently acquainted with these principles, to hit upon such objections as might puzzle the father; I only observ'd, that in case the comparison he had made were just, the adversaries of the church of *Rome*, were equally guilty of folly and malignity: and indeed, says he to me, we don't meet with either solidity or good sense in their writings.

I must own that his discourse, and the confident air with which he spoke, made some impression upon me. Nevertheless, as I was not willing to believe, without knowing why I did so, I gave him to understand, that before I could give my assent, he must be more particular. Upon that he withdrew, very well satisfied with the frame of mind he left me in; and assured me that in two such conversations more, he would bring me over entirely to his opinion.

AFTER the father was gone, I reflected more intensely on what he had told me, than the reader can well imagine; and look'd upon the consequences he drew from his comparisons to be unanswerable. In case, says I, his suppositions are just, 'tis manifest that the church of *Rome* only teaches the truth. He assures me, that all the other sects sprang from her, and have nothing good in them, but what they borrow'd from the mother church. The rest were prompted to a separation, either from a fondness of novelty, or some private resentment. In leaving that church, they renounc'd such of its tenets as were of too severe and burthenosome a nature, and invented others which might suit better with their practices; and this they were prompted to, from the same turn of mind, which inclines them to hate those they have rejected. Is it not evident, that this behaviour has all the characteristicks of an unjust and criminal rebellion? — Such reflections were far from prejudicing me in favour of the protestant doctor whom I expected that afternoon.

He came; and we had not exchange'd many words, before he found that I was not in so happy a frame of mind, as he had left

left me in the evening before, which surpriz'd him very much. I did not scruple to relate to him, in very near the same terms, the comparison which father *Bane* had made. He at first listen'd to me with some confusion, but soon put on a smiling countenance; and upon my asking him, in the same words with father *le Bane*, what he thought of those rebellious subjects I then describ'd to him; he made the same answer to it as I had done. I must confess, that I was prodigiously struck at this unexpected conclusion. But then says I to him with great warmth, you either betray your own interest, or else intend to impose upon me by falsehoods, which you know to be such.

GIVE me leave, says he, also to use a comparison; nay, I'll even employ part of your own. Imagine therefore a king, possess'd of all the good qualities you mention'd; and governing by such prudent and necessary laws as those you spoke of, These subsist some time after his death, and form the happiness of the people who obey them. Then an usurper forces his way to the throne, by fraud and injustice; and finding his tyrannical proceedings condemn'd by the laws in force; he first pre-

tends to explain them; but this he does merely to wrest their sense, and make them subservient to his passions. By insensible degrees he substitutes others in their room. As he has no other view but to maintain himself in his usurpation, he never thinks of the publick good; but daily enacts such laws as may flatter his pride and avarice. In what manner soever he may have disguis'd the old laws, he perceives that they still condemn his proceedings, and reflect a shame on his pernicious enterprizes: upon this, he forbids the reading of them, purposely to keep his people in ignorance.

BUT by this time, the whole face of the state is chang'd. Ignorance and a depravity of manners gain the ascendant; and a relish for goodness and true felicity, is lost by insensible degrees; so that at last, all things are in confusion. In vain any person, who perceives the unhappiness of his country, presumes to complain; for immediately the usurper employs the extremes of cruelty to keep him silent.

WHO but would imagine that the evil was not to be remedied? It nevertheless happens that a small number of his subjects, deeply affected with the publick calamity,

calamity, undertake to open the eyes of their deluded countrymen, and do it by a short and easy method. These only take out the old laws from their obscurity, and expose them to the publick in their primitive purity; when immediately all hearts are delighted with the hopes that things will return to their former channel. Mankind see plainly how low they are fallen; which makes them sigh after their once happy condition. This alarms the usurper, who immediately displays his dreadful vengeance. But tho' he still obliges a great number of slaves, by violence and wicked arts, to submit to the yoke; he yet cannot prevent those who suffer'd under his tyranny from breaking their chains; and tasting the sweets which those laws, they ought never to have departed from, dispense. What think you now, continues the minister, of those persons who had the courage to shake off his tyrannical yoke?— They certainly, says I, have done their duty, and acted a very wise part. The application, says he, is very easy; and he immediately made it to the advantage of the protestant church.

I MUST confess that I was now in great perplexity and doubt; however, after a

moment's reflection or two, I answer'd him as follows. 'Tis plain, says I, according to your suppositions, that justice and truth are for your church; but then you must confess, that the opposite consequence follows as clearly from the principles of your adversary. In case you can prove, that the *Roman* pontiff is an usurper, and that the catholic doctrines have been adulterated, I can't then see how it would be possible for any one to refuse declaring for you; but then I shall think the same justice is due to the catholicks, in case they prove to me, that you are to be accus'd as innovators. The only difficulty then is, to exhibit your proofs so clearly, that it will be impossible for me not to be convinc'd by what you advance. At present I have not a liberty or tranquillity of mind, requisite for hearing you in the manner I ought to do.—The doctor was not offended at my answer; and assur'd me, that as nothing could possibly be clearer and more decisive, than the proofs he had to produce, I could not refuse hearing what he had to say, without discovering a criminal indifference for my salvation. All you have in reality to do, says he, is only to make use of your eyes. I'll open the

the gospel; and you shall read in it; these are the only weapons I intend to employ. You there will have a clear view of our own triumphs; and the confusion of our enemies.—I at last acquiesc'd with his urgent intreaties; and we agreed upon the hours which should be spent in perusing the scriptures.

FATHER *le Bane* did not fail of returning the next day, I told him, that as there were not yet any solid motives, which could prompt me to declare on his side, preferable to that of his adversary; I was resolv'd to hear the doctor first, and upon no other account, but because he had first spoke to me of religion. I therefore, father, says I, must desire you'd give me leave to hear what he has to offer, and not trouble me with your objections; for these would make me less attentive than I ought to be to the strength of your proofs. However, the moment he has laid down all he has to say; I then will hear, with pleasure, all you shall please to inform me of.—The father was not satisfied with this resolution. Be upon your guard, says he, the poison of error is vastly subtle; 'twill draw you away. I declar'd that his suspicions gave me offence; and that I should take it as a favour,

your, if he would slacken in his zeal, of which he had given me some unpleasing marks. Upon my saying this, he left the room very much disgusted. 'Twas undoubtedly on this occasion he machinated a design which was put in execution four days after, a design which brought me into so much trouble, as was sufficient to outweigh my other sorrows, had it been possible for them to be alleviated.

I saw the doctor for three days together, at certain stated hours. The fourth, at about six in the evening, I was told that an officer belonging to the intendant of the province was very urgent to speak with me. I bid the servant show him up; when coming in, he presented me with a *lettre de cachet*, (the king's command with his signet) by which my self and my family were order'd to be seiz'd, and afterwards to be carried to *Angers*. Me! says I, with astonishment. Alas! how comes his majesty to grant such an order upon my account? How does he even know that I am in his dominions? Sir, says he, the king knows every thing that passes in *France*; and I must tell you, that his majesty's commands must be instantly complied with. He then told me, that I must leave the city that night; and for
 that

that purpose he had brought two coaches, for me and my family, and I could not forbear murmuring, as I prepar'd for my departure; but ask'd him, whether there was any likelihood of my being immediately set at liberty. He answer'd, that this was very uncertain; and that I had best order my affairs in such a manner, as tho' I never expected it. I understood the meaning of these words. I thereupon settled matters as well as so short a warning would permit me to do; and leaving *Dring* to finish those things which requir'd the presence of some one of my family or friends; I set out for *Angers* with the two ladies, our children, and servants.

This mysterious journey could not but give me a great deal of uneasiness; and I tortur'd my imagination, but in vain, to find out some reasonable cause to which I might ascribe it. I had not acted any thing criminal, either against the king or his government: *England* was at peace with *France*; and I had not liv'd in such a manner at *Saumur*, as should bring me under the least suspicion. Nevertheless *Mrs. Lallin*, who cou'dn't but be better acquainted with the genius and customs of her own country than my self, imagin'd,

imagin'd, that my solitary disposition, and the gloomy aspect I wore, had made me suspected. I Be assur'd, says she, that as you had not any manner of acquaintance, you were taken for a spy.—The coachman drove very fast; so that as *Angers* is but thirty two miles from *Sauzun*, we got there before day-break, I expected, in order to have this scene conclude as it had begun, that we should immediately be closely confin'd. However, we stopt at a fine house; when immediately several footmen with lights in their hands, conducted us into an apartment very well furnish'd. We had not been long there before some refreshments were brought us; and as our affliction would not suffer us to sit long at table, notice was given us, as the cloth was taking away, that his *lordship* would be there presently.

Tho' I could not comprehend who it was they figur'd under this title, I yet had not the curiosity to enquire who they meant! A moment after, we saw a door open, when two men dress'd in white, and whom I at first suppos'd to be in their shirts, advanced towards us with wax tapers in their hands. These lighted a third person, who walked after them with gravity,

vity, and whose whole dress appear'd to me very extraordinary. He was tall, cloath'd in a purple cloth gown, which descended to his feet, and trail'd after him a considerable length. A golden cross, about the length of one's finger, hung down his bosom. He had a black cap on his head, which was square at bottom, though the top was in a triangular form. In a word, his whole dress was altogether new to me, when Mrs. Lallin came up and whisper'd me in the ear, that she believ'd he was a bishop. We rose up at his coming in; he saluted us very civilly, but without speaking; and kneeling down, he bid us do the same, by a sign he made. He then repeated a short prayer in *Latin*, after which, he rose up and seated himself in an easy chair; making signs to us, in a very polite manner, to sit down in our places.

I was impatient to know how this comedy would end; but at last he open'd his mouth, and directing himself to me, said, that it was proper so important a design as that we were upon, should begin by prayer. That as his majesty had order'd him to instruct me and my family, he was sincerely desirous of seconding the view of so pious a monarch.

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That he congratulated me on the resolution I had form'd, to apply my self seriously to religion, and to attend to the welfare of my soul: but that I was bound to thank heaven for prompting his majesty to preserve me from the danger, to which I had inconsiderately expos'd my self at *Saumur*. That in delivering my self up to Mr. C——, the minister, who was the most dangerous heretic in the whole kingdom, I had been upon the very brink of destruction. That the utmost pains would be taken to instruct me and my children, peaceably, in the truth at *Angers*. In fine, he assur'd me, they would behave with so much tenderness and lenity towards me, that I should have the highest reason to be pleas'd with my self, for having chosen *France* to reside in.

THESE words were so plain, that I could not but understand the drift of them. I had moreover been told, that the popish clergy in *France* wish'd for nothing so earnestly as the destruction of the protestants, and did all that lay in their power to gain proselytes. My genius and turn of mind were such, that force and violence could never have brought me to the truth; and this I immediately

mediately hinted to the gentleman. I suppose, sir, says I, that you are the bishop of this diocese, and that I am now in your palace; I don't know whether you intend to keep me here by force, but I'll be so plain as to assure your lordship, that if I am detain'd here, 'twill be against my inclination: I was born free. Tho' I chose to reside in *France* for some years; there yet are no ties which engage me to consider my self as his most Christian majesty's subject; I therefore expect that he'll be so just, as to suffer me to enjoy my liberty; at least so long as I shall not commit any thing which may offend him. In case this favour is denied me, I am ready to leave the kingdom, and to return to my native country. I spoke these words in a civil, but resolute tone of voice, at which the bishop seem'd a little puzzled. However, he continu'd to assure me in very polite terms, that his majesty did not intend to make use of the least constraint; that he himself would shew me the most candid usage; a circumstance I might be persuaded of, from the handsome reception I met with in his house, and the pains he had already taken, to instruct me; that the rest of his conduct would correspond with

with the beginning; that he knew I was of such a rank, as merited the kindest treatment from his hands; that he was going to conduct me to an apartment, which I might look upon as my own; that I undoubtedly wanted to take a little rest after the fatigue of my journey; that all imaginable care should be taken of my children; and, to conclude, that I might entirely rely on his good offices, and rest assur'd, that his whole family would shew me the utmost regard.

Upon this I withdrew, in order to take a little sleep. The bishop went away, and said, that he promis'd himself the greatest satisfaction in discoursing with me the next day; and, at the same time, allow'd my own servants to wait upon me. I was resolv'd, at my going to bed, not to continue long in this palace, presuming that I should not be detain'd against my will. My *valet de chambre* awaking me the next morning, according to my orders, I bid him immediately enquire how the ladies and the children had slept. He staid only a moment, but brought me the most melancholy news. He told me, that being shewn up to the ladies apartment, he found them asleep, and therefore did not dare

date to awake them; that after this, he had desir'd one of the bishop's servants to carry me to the children's apartment, but was told they were not in the house. I was very earnest with him, continu'd my *valet de chambre*, to know whither they were gone, but he assur'd me he cou'dn't tell; however, says he, where-soever they are, depend on't they're in good hands.

THESE words troubled me very much, upon which I got drest instantly; and sent to the bishop, desiring to speak with him a moment. His lordship had the civility to visit me in my apartment, when I told him my fears, which he confest were just. Your children, says he, have been carried, by the king's order, to a place where they'll be well educated. Your two sons are sent to a college, and your niece to a monastery; but then you certainly have too much good sense to complain, since all this has been done for their good. How! says I, my children carried off without my knowledge or consent, and this by the king's order! The bishop was going to enter into a long detail, in justification of the court; but I interrupted him with warmth, and ask'd him, whether I must look upon my self

as a prisoner in his palace. He answer'd, that I was not, and that no attempts should be made to keep me in it against my will; we only desire, says he, that the handsome usage you shall meet with, may prevail with you to stay. You seem'd desirous of being instructed in religion; and therefore we intend to do you a piece of service, which surely claims some thanks. Truly, says I, my lord, all these proceedings quite confound me. I admire your zeal; but am no less surpriz'd at the manner in which you exercise it: Had you, at least, but consulted me—— But no, says I, there is nothing I abhor so much as violence. Restore me only my children; and then I protest to you, that I'll not only leave your palace, but the kingdom, to which I am no ways bound. The prelate, upon this, assum'd a graver tone; and told me, that 'twas not in his power to do this, since the king had order'd that they should be educated in the catholic faith. This refusal exasperated me to such a degree, that I was resolv'd to leave the bishop's house that instant. Adieu, my lord, says I, I shall leave your palace, since I am allow'd to do it. I value not what religion my children are brought

brought up in, since they may chuse for themselves, when once they are come to years of maturity : but what shocks me prodigiously, is, to see us used like slaves in a country, where no one ought to have the least authority over us. Saying this, I left the palace in spite of all the arguments the bishop could employ to detain me.

I NOW went to an inn, and sent a message to my sister and Mrs. *Lallin*, to acquaint them that I was there. 'Twas with some difficulty that the bishop let them go ; however, finding them resolute, he at last dismiss'd them, sending, at the same time, his gentleman to attend upon them ; who brought me an invitation from his lordship to dine with him at his palace ; but I was too much perplex'd with thinking of the resolution, it wou'd be proper for me to take on so important an occasion, to accept of it. I therefore consulted with the two ladies, and being unacquainted with the laws and customs of *France*, I attended particularly to Mrs. *Lallin's* advice. Her opinion was, that I should ride post for *Versailles* ; and there throwing myself at the King's feet, sue to him for justice ; a hint which I very much approv'd of. As the news of what
had

had happen'd to me was spread all over the city, some *English* gentlemen who were there having the curiosity to see me, came now to pay me their compliments, just as I was getting a horseback. I receiv'd them very civilly, and told them in few words, the design I was going upon, when they inform'd me that I might visit the lord *Clarendon* in my way, who had been some weeks in *Orleans*. This nobleman, whose name I shall never pronounce but with the highest reverence and respect, had been so unhappy as to fall under king *Charles's* displeasure; after having serv'd him very faithfully for several years. He was retir'd into *France*, but before he settled himself in it, he visited the several provinces out of curiosity. I had heard so great a character of his lordship's genius and worth, that I had a desire to be acquainted with him; not to mention, that as I was unknown to the whole *French* court, I flatter'd myself that he'd be so generous as to do me some service. I got to *Orleans*, which was not out of my way, in two days. Altho' the gloomy disposition of my mind, would not permit me to think of any thing like pomp; I nevertheless took Mrs. *Lallin's* advice, who thought it would be necessary

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ry for me to appear at court with some distinction, I had set out with four servants; and stopping at *Orleans*, I order'd one of them to go immediately for *Paris*, and prepare an equipage for me.

I ALIGHTED at the very same inn, in which the lord *Clarendon* lodg'd; when, a little after, I sent a message, by which I desir'd he would give me leave to pay my respects to him. His lordship accordingly receiv'd me in the noble manner which was natural to him; and I soon insinuated myself so far into his esteem, that he offer'd to do me all the service that lay in his power. As he had known the lord *Axminster*, I acquainted him with part of his story and my own, which immediately gain'd me his favour. His lordship seem'd to be strongly affected with my misfortunes; and I may look upon this first interview, as the foundation of the tender friendship he has since always indulg'd me. If we did not, the very first day of our meeting, arrive at the highest pitch of mutual confidence; this was not so much owing to a want of esteem and reciprocal inclination; as the effect of a just prudence, which forbids a man to reveal his whole soul at once.

HIS lordship gave me two hints, which shew'd how much his generosity had already prejudic'd him in my favour. The first related to the business upon which I was going to *Versailles*. He advis'd me to wait upon the Dutches of *Orleans*, King *Charles's* sister, before I address'd his most Christian majesty. This princess, says he, is goodness itself; her highness will do her utmost to serve you; and you need no other recommendation, but your being an *Englishman*. He added, that he flatter'd himself with being so much in her grace's favour, that a letter from him would not, perhaps, be of disservice to me; however, that as he was so lately fallen under his majesty's displeasure, he did not think it proper to take that liberty yet. Your father's memory, says he to me, is so detested by all good people; that it cannot be for your advantage to pass for his son, either in *France* or *England*, so that I'd advise you to change your name. The honour of being viscount *Axminster's* son-in-law, will procure you respect where-ever you go. To corroborate what he said, he gave me an account of the punishment which had been inflicted on the regicides in *England*; and with what ignominy my father's body had been

been treated. I thank'd him for this double advice, and promised to follow it. So that during my twenty four hours stay in *Orleans*, I obtain'd a blessing which merits the search of ages ; I mean a virtuous and faithful friend. He told me, upon my taking leave, that after having travell'd some months in *France*, he intended to withdraw to *Roan*, and there spend his days ; and that I might always hear of him in the abovemention'd city.

I AGAIN set out post, and being alone, my sad heart disburthen'd itself a little by a deep sigh. Gracious heavens ! says I ; can I ever more hope for any return of pleasure and tranquillity ? After having lost all I held dear, which was ravish'd from me by death and infidelity ; wilt thou still be so indulgent as to reserve me so sweet a consolation as that of friendship ? Thus I spent part of my journey, in examining whether my heart was susceptible of any sensation but grief ; and found that 'twas equally impossible I should cease to be tender and unfortunate.

AT my arrival in *Paris*, I found an apartment had been hir'd, and an equipage bought for me ; upon which I set out without loss of time for *St. Cloud*, where I was inform'd the dutchess of *Or-*

leans generally resided. This excellent princess being of so easy access, I was soon permitted to see her; and thereupon acquainted her with the occasion of my journey, and how much I stood in need of her protection. Her highness indulg'd it me at once; and as she was to go that evening to *Versailles*, I begg'd leave to follow her; and likewise that she would please to instruct me how I was to act. You shall come and see me to-morrow, says she, in my apartment at court; and then we'll take such measures as may be necessary. Hearing this I took my leave, and went for *Versailles*, flush'd with the greatest hopes.

THE *French* court was at that time so crowded and magnificent, that it was a difficult matter to find an apartment fit for me in *Versailles*. The king had just concluded a glorious peace with *Spain*, by the treaty of *Aix-la-Chapelle*; and as he liv'd in perfect good harmony with all his neighbours; so general a tranquillity had invited a great number of foreigners; who came to be eye-witnesses of all the wonders which were publish'd of that great monarch. The ceremony of the dauphin's christening, which was soon to be solemniz'd at *St. Germain's in Laye*; and

and for which splendid preparations were making, drew thither all the nobility of the kingdom, who never fail, on these occasions, to contribute all they can to heighten the splendor of the crown. Nothing was therefore seen but magnificence in dress, and pompous equipages ; and, if we were to judge by outward appearance, the king of *France* was at the highest point of glory, to which ambition can aspire. The court was so crouded, that the day after my arrival I could scarce make my way through the several apartments of the palace. However, being at last come to that of the dutchess of *Orleans*, I there met one of her officers, who had seen me the night before at *St. Cloud*. The gentleman went in to her highness, and told her that I begg'd leave to speak to her, upon which I was immediately order'd to walk into her closet. — Things, Sir, says she, turn very much in your favour ; his majesty, who generally visits me in the afternoon, has sent word that he'll be here this morning ; and therefore, pray repeat the particulars you spoke last night, in order that they may be the more present to my memory when his majesty comes. I then gave her highness an account of every thing that had pass

in *Saumur* and *Angers*, as I had done before. As it was impossible for me to do this, without giving her some little idea of the gloomy disposition of my mind, she had the curiosity to enquire into the cause of it. I satisfied her highness by letting her into part of my story, and did not so much as conceal my wife's infidelity. The great attention with which she listned, shew'd that she was pleased with my relation. But after I had done speaking, I was prodigiously surpriz'd at her answer. I believe, sir, says she, I know your lady——I am, says she, after reflecting a moment, vastly mistaken if I don't.

My wife! alas! madam, 'tis impossible that perfidious creature should have had the confidence to approach your highness. She's far from being of a bold and assuming character: would to heavens she were not base and inconstant! She must have laid aside all pretensions to modesty, before she could have presum'd to appear before your highness; immers'd, as she is, in crimes of the blackest dye. You may be persuaded, says the princess interrupting me, that she never reveal'd them to me; but I'm firmly persuaded 'tis she herself. About six weeks hence, this very lady
address'd

address'd me, merely as an *English* gentlewoman who stood in need of my protection. She was introduc'd to me, and I must confess that her person prejudiced me greatly in her favour. I enquir'd her name, and what service I could do her ; upon which she desir'd me not to insist upon her answering the first question ; but after having acquainted me ; (the tears streaming from her eyes as she spoke) that she came from the *West-Indies*, and that her sufferings were inexpressible, she begg'd me to procure her some asylum, in which she might spend the remainder of her days. I was so pleased with her, that had she disclosed all her affairs to me, I should certainly have taken her into my household ; but she persisted in refusing to gratify me in this particular, and only begg'd me to procure her some place where she might live in peace. Finding this, I advis'd her to retire into the monastery of *Chaillot* ; and upon her agreeing to it, I sent a gentleman of my household to conduct her thither, and recommend her to the abbess in my name.—

When I compare what you have now told me, with the few particulars she gave me an idea of, I don't doubt but she is your lady ; ar'n't you therefore desirous of seeing her ?

SEE her ! says I with a deep sigh, alas ! I ought rather to shun, and endeavour to forget her eternally. However, madam, I am infinitely oblig'd to your highness for being so indulgent. Your goodness has fix'd her in a place, where I now need not fear, that she'll ever dishonour me more. Faithless creature ! This then is the fruit she reaps from all her crimes ! She, no doubt, intends to spend the rest of her days in bewailing her lover ! — I pity you both, says the princess ; for, to be plain with you, I cannot advise you to see her again ; and nevertheless, compassion inclines me to wish her as well as I do you. As her highness had done speaking, word was brought that his majesty was coming in, upon which she desir'd me to withdraw and wait a little. I obey'd, and walk'd about the anti-chamber, revolving my usual melancholy ideas, which now presented themselves more strongly to my imagination, than they had before done for some time. I now was fully persuaded, that my wife was really in *Chailot*. Altho' 'twas some little consolation for me, to hear that she was now in a place where it would be impossible for her to indulge in such passions, as are of a criminal nature ;

ture ; I yet felt the same violent emotions, as when I first heard of her infidelity. The circumstance which tormented me most, was, my inability to discover how I was inclin'd with regard to that faithless creature ; and whether love had any share in my agitations. This I examin'd very sincerely, having no design to impose upon myself ; and I had so much strength of mind as to give this testimony of my own disposition, *viz.* that in what frame soever my mind might be, I was sure I should never desire to see her. Me! says I, see an infamous woman who has brought me to shame ; a perfidious creature who has violated all her engagements ; a cruel wretch, who has stabb'd my heart ? I ! see a base jilt, a hypocrite, who impos'd upon me for several years together, by a specious outside of virtue and honour ; and who certainly laugh'd in herself, to find me so stupidly fond and credulous ? No ! I'll never see her more. But why does her bare remembrance excite such emotions in my heart ? Whence do those tears proceed which are now ready to flow, and the despair which preys incessantly on my heart ? Did I not wish for death, to put a period to all my evils ? And even now

that my reason seems to have recover'd its former seat, should I not tear my hair, and vent the most mournful cries, were I to yield to the furious transports, which still rack my imagination?

So great was the chaos of confus'd and involuntary emotions, that I cou'd not pierce thro' it; and I incessantly groan'd and tortur'd my self, without being able to make the least distinct reflection on the cause of my agonies. But in the midst of this distraction of mind, a page came to me from the princess, and desir'd me to walk into the closet. Sorrow was so strongly painted on my countenance, that her highness hinted it to the king; Your majesty, says she, sees him before you; the bare sight of him melts my heart; I don't think that ever man was so unfortunate. His majesty then was pleas'd to speak to me in the most gracious words, and afterwards turning about to the princess; Madam, says his majesty, with regard to what happen'd at *Angers*, I have already told you that 'twas done without my knowledge. I leave all religious matters to the council of conscience, tho', I am perswaded, they sometimes abuse my authority: but I never intended, that such foreigners as
came

came into my dominions should be troubled upon any account; and therefore those who committed this act of injustice, shall certainly be call'd to account for it. As her highness knew, that such general promises as these are soon forgot, and being desirous that this should not; she answer'd in the most agreeable manner, that I did not desire any person should be punish'd upon my account; all I begg'd, was, to be allow'd to see my children as soon as possible. The king understood her meaning, and thereupon ordering an Exon of the guards to be brought in, he immediately commanded him to go to Mr. *de Louvois*, with the orders I so earnestly wish'd for. Upon this I withdrew with the Exon; her highness, at the same time, desiring me not to be out of the way; for I must, says she, see you again very soon.

I WAITED in the antichamber, 'till his majesty was withdrawn; and heard the company speak variously, about his visiting the princess so constantly, both at *Ver-sailles* and *St. Cloud*. Tho' I did not mix among the courtiers, to whom I was wholly unknown; I nevertheless gather'd the sense of a great part of their discourse, as I walk'd up and down alone

among them. Some fancied that the king was in love with the princess; others imagin'd that their interviews were altogether political; and foretold very exactly the treaty which was concluded a little after, between *France* and *England*, against *Holland*; but I did not find that any one guess'd the real motive of the king's visits, as it afterwards appear'd; I mean the secret inclination he had for one of her highness's maids of honour. His majesty never came once into the apartment, without finding some opportunity of discoursing a moment or two with that young lady. I saw her among the rest of the maids of honour, and tho' her person did not seem to be very engaging, and that no one knew the king had a particular inclination for her; I nevertheless fancied, by some glances shot from his majesty's eyes, as he left the closet, that he did not look upon her with indifference. The king's eyes must necessarily have been vastly expressive, to make me observe this circumstance, as I had never seen him before.

THE princess having sent for me as soon as the company were withdrawn, I return'd into the closet. You have the greatest reason, says she, to be satisfied with

with the king's goodness; for, as he has given such strict orders, your affair will soon be done; but I am curious to know how you intend to behave with regard to your own lady. I answer'd, that I believ'd the only thing proper would be, to let her continue in the convent which her highness had been pleas'd to place her in. — Why so, says the princess? she's a most agreeable woman; you are young; men of your age can't do very well without a wife, and therefore I advise you to be reconcil'd to her. Are we not to indulge a pardon to such persons as we once lov'd with a most tender passion, especially when they discover a real repentance of their faults? Besides, I find by what you have told me, that *France* was not the scene of her unhappy conduct; and you may depend upon my secrecy. Thus, you see, your honour will not be expos'd in any manner, and that you may live as happily with her as ever.

THESE arguments, which were rather humane, than just and rational, made a strong impression on me; and thereupon I continu'd, for a few moments, uncertain what answer to make. Her highness being urgent with me to speak, Madam, says I, at last; I must confess that

that your highness's advice has clear'd up a doubt, which I really imagin'd it would be impossible for me to get over easily. I could not tell whether I still had some tenderness left for that faithless woman; but I now find, by the fondness with which I listen to your highness's advice, that 'twould be in vain for me to imagine I had completely triumph'd over love: however, it will be hardly possible for me to forget my wife's guilt. When I first gave way to the fond passion I had for her, I resolv'd to love with reason; and hop'd to make my self happy by the only two methods I suppos'd capable of rendring me so; I mean love and wisdom. I had for many years been so blind, as to persuade my self I had succeeded in this particular; or, at least, that the only thing wanting to complete my happiness, was, a handsome competency, which I had some reason to hope would one day be indulg'd me. Nevertheless, I was betray'd by a perfidious woman, who undoubtedly never was sincere in her love; since she was so base as to abandon me, and in one day sap the two foundations of my happiness. Your highness, says I, may possibly be in the dark as to the meaning of these words; but I must do my

my self the honour to lay open my whole soul to you, in order to render my self worthy of the regard and concern, which you are pleas'd to discover for my welfare.

I THEN gave her highness an exact account of the manner of my education, and the principles by which I had always squar'd my conduct. I did not so much as conceal either my name or my birth; and at the same time told her the advice which the lord *Clarendon* had given me; and assur'd her highness that my story should have been conceal'd to all but her self. At last, after having given her a genuine account of whatever had befallen me; of my wife's infidelity, and the sad circumstances which had attended upon it; I concluded with relating my adventures in *St. Helena*, *Corunna* and *Saumur*. Such, madam, says I, is the abyfs into which my wife has plung'd me. She has not only rob'd me of the felicity which arose from her love; but likewise made me lose the happiness which I imagin'd was so strongly founded, I mean on wisdom. I had hitherto consider'd my philosophy, whether it were real or delusive, as a source of light and strength; but since the misfortune which oppress'd

me,

me, I find her to be nothing less than what I had imagin'd. Suppose she had been only a shadowy and fictitious being, she yet had the power to calm my soul, and administer'd comfort, when the evils were not beyond her reach; but since I have lost that which was to make me completely happy, in conjunction with wisdom, the dictates of philosophy are now of no effect. Thus my natural affections and understanding partake equally of my misfortunes. The former thereby lose all their delights, and the latter its strength and support. This fill'd me with despair, and I wish'd to die; and now, madam, would you advise me to be reconcil'd to the person who has been the cause of all my calamities?

THE princess looking upon me with astonishment, I said to her; Madam, I believe you find something very singular in my sentiments, and the turn of my expressions; and 'tis this, or I am very much mistaken, occasions the surprize, which methinks I discover in your highness's eyes. To speak the truth, says she, you appear to me a very extraordinary person; and I must confess that what I have now heard, is wholly new to me. However, since you govern your self by
such

such wise principles, (and how few do so!) I shall value you much more upon that account. The older I grow, and the more experience I gain, the more I find mankind in general to be false and criminal. I am resolv'd to make your moral system familiar to me; and assure you, that I shall be glad to have such a monster as you often in my company. But, by the way, I think you don't argue justly. Because your lady has depriv'd you of all the soft sensations of love, and made philosophy of no use to you; you thence conclude, that she does not deserve ever to be seen any more by you: now I, on the contrary, am of opinion, that you ought, for your own sake, to be reconcil'd to her as soon as possible; in order to enjoy again those pleasures which love and philosophy dispense. Alas! madam, says I to her, what pleasures can I expect from love, after the false creature has us'd me so barbarously? Your highness thinks that I may again be captivated by those charms which once had so fatal an ascendant over my heart; such as her lovely eyes, her fine shape, and the several graces which shone throughout her whole person? These, indeed, fir'd my soul; but your highness may be assur'd,

assur'd, that I should only have admir'd, had I not fancied they were heighten'd by other things, which were much more worthy of inspiring love. That rectitude of soul; that modesty, sweetness, and an hundred other beautiful qualities which I fancied I had discover'd in her mind, either never existed at all, or are quite extinct. But, supposing honour were quite out of the case; what should I now do with her? I should continually exclaim against her inconstancy and baseness; and all my glances would dart complaints or reproaches: my very silence would be a strong censure; and tho' I could be so much master of my temper, as to assume a calm, unruffled countenance; would this either make me happier, or she less guilty?——But you own, says the princess interrupting me, that you still have some love for her. Love heals wounds of every kind, and throws a veil over all faults.—I will confess, says I, that I still love her; but then I am persuaded 'tis a weakness. You'll never get the better of it, replied the princess, smiling; and since it will one day gain the ascendant, you had better let my intreaties serve you as a pretext, since by that means you'll secure your own

own honour and that of philosophy?

THIS conversation, which was spun out to a much greater length, was attended with very happy consequences; for it inspir'd the princess with so much affection for me and my family, and so great concern for my interest; that it prompted her to act the part of a mother to my children, and to be my protectress in a court where I was wholly a stranger. She was pleased to desire me to hire a house in her neighbourhood at *St. Cloud*, in order that I might visit her often; and accordingly I hir'd one which was very agreeable and commodious, before I return'd to *Anjou*; and order'd some of my people to furnish it during my absence. Upon this, setting out, I pass'd thro' *Orleans* in my way to *Angers*, but did not meet with the lord *Clarendon* in that city, he being gone for *Poitiers* three or four days before. Being got to my journey's end, I went immediately to Mrs. *Lallin* and my sister; and found that the king's orders were not only arriv'd, but put in execution; my two sons and my niece *Bridge* being in the house with them. The ladies assur'd me, that the bishop had shewn them the kindest treatment during my absence, for which reason

reason I thought it my duty to return him thanks. I don't know he came to hear, of the powerful protection I had already gain'd at court; but tho' he had treated me with the utmost civility in his palace; I observ'd something in his carriage and his offers of service, still more obliging than what he had before indulg'd me, which I ascrib'd to the news he had heard from *Versailles*. I could not, however, forbear taking notice, with a pleasant air, that his majesty did not approve of violent proceedings. The bishop took my meaning; and to justify his conduct, related the following particulars. Father *le Bane*, says he, superior of the oratory, told the intendant, by letter, that he knew a foreigner lately settled in *Saumur*, who seem'd desirous of instructing himself in religious matters, but was unhappily fallen into the hands of Mr. C—— the huguenot minister; and therefore, in all probability, not only himself, but his whole family, would soon be infected with heresy. The intendant, upon his receiving this letter, transmitted it immediately to me; and I will own to you, says the bishop, that the great concern I have for your eternal welfare, prompted me to get you secur'd and brought into
this

this city ; and upon hearing that you was a person of distinction, I offer'd to take you into my own house, and to instruct you my self. Perhaps the intendant may have been a little too officious ; but these gentlemen will be obey'd, in the several provinces, with an almost absolute authority. They have a great many blank *lettres de cachet*, which they fill up whenever they please ; so that their whole proceedings seem to be by the king's orders. I appear'd well satisfied with this justification, which threw the whole blame on the intendant.

I now thought of removing to *St. Cloud* with my whole family and furniture. Shall I be so weak as to make the following confession ? Notwithstanding I was so highly exasperated against my wife, 'twas some pleasure to me to think that I should now be near her, *Cbaillot* not being above three miles from *St. Cloud* ; and though I endeavour'd to banish this idea, as arguing the greatest weakness ; it yet was continually present to my imagination throughout the whole journey. The tumults of my soul were so visible in my countenance, that the two ladies told me every day they were surpriz'd, time had so little effect upon my sorrows.

forrows. Being now arriv'd at my house, which had been completely furnish'd, Mrs. *Lallin* and my sister were very well pleas'd with it. There was a large garden belonging to it, a little grove, and every thing that can form an agreeable solitude. The next day I waited upon the princess to pay her my respects, and acquaint her with the arrival of my family. Her highness did not wait for my desiring the liberty to present my children to her, but prevented me by saying; I desire you to bring them this evening; for I would have them know the way to my palace as soon as possible. After having thank'd her highness in the best manner I was able, for her uncommon goodness; I mention'd my sister to her, who spoke our tongue so well, that she might very easily pass for a native of *England*; which I had no sooner done, but this excellent princess bid me bring her also. I was afraid that Mrs. *Lallin* would be very uneasy, should any endeavours be us'd to make her more known than she desir'd to be; and indeed the melancholy scenes of life she had pass'd thro', made her justly fond of retirement; I my self had applauded her resolution in this respect, for which reason I never once mention'd her to the princess.

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As I was leaving the palace, I saw a splendid coach coming into the court, and enquiring whom it belong'd to, was told the lord *Terwill.* Tho' I was not personally acquainted with that nobleman, I remember'd he had been viscount *Axminster's* old friend; and that the latter had made over part of his estate to him. I at first was resolv'd to speak to him; but a reflection which my own unhappy fate suggested, and that of his noble friend's unhappy daughter, prevailed with me to go away, without speaking to him. I consider'd, that it would be improper to acquaint him so soon with my affairs; and the fear I was under lest her highness should let slip any particulars relating to me, in discoursing with him, made me return to my apartment, and beseech her not to tell his lordship who I was. My meeting him, increas'd my sorrow to such a degree, that I was almost beside my self as I was returning home. Heavens! says I, what ignominy is reflected on viscount *Axminster's* memory! How will it be possible for me to see any of his friends, without mentioning his daughter, and consequently without revealing both her father's shame and mine? How can I be able to conceal, what must be so strongly
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imprest on my countenance, though it were possible for me to disguise it in my discourse. Alas! the lord *Terwill* was formerly an eye-witness to lady *Axminster's* misfortunes, and he now must hear of her daughter's infamy! It will not only come to his knowledge, but that of all *England*. Thus will relentless fate persecute the unhappy viscount *Axminster*, even after death: He hardly enjoy'd a moment's ease or satisfaction in his life time, and now he will be dishonour'd in his grave. Indeed, I could not see how it would be possible for me to avoid acquainting lord *Terwill* with my wife's wretched story, in case I declar'd my self to be viscount *Axminster's* son-in-law; and yet I could not dispense with doing this for my children's sake, who otherwise would be depriv'd of part of their grandfather's estate. To confess the truth, the principal motive which engag'd me to settle for some time in *France*, since my landing at *Nantz*; was, the hopes I entertain'd, that the sad story of my misfortunes would be forgot before I went for *England*. 'Twas for this reason that I dismiss'd my sailors, and such persons about me whose discretion I was a little suspicious of; being
resolv'd

resolv'd not to have any one follow me to *England*, who had it in his power to disclose such circumstances as I desir'd to bury in eternal silence. However, I had not call'd to mind, that as lord *Terwill* must be in years, I should run the hazard of depriving my children of part of their inheritance; in case I should delay any longer to make them known to him. Neither had I consider'd also, that it would perhaps be a difficult matter for me to prove the just right they had to it, by vertue of their birth, and the viscount's last will. 'Tis true indeed, that when he was upon his death-bed at *Penfecola*, he had recogniz'd me as his son-in-law and heir, by a note sign'd by himself; but 'tis well known, that when an instrument is not executed in a legal manner, it may be eluded; and tho' I had no reason to doubt of the lord *Terwill*'s integrity, I naturally concluded that he would desire some stronger testimony, than a bare signature, and the word of a person who was unknown to him. My wife's presence alone, would, at once, remove all these difficulties; and what pretext could I invent, to disguise the real cause of her absence?

As these reflections only heighten'd my perplexity and sorrow, I resolv'd to acquaint her highness with them that evening; and by that means engage her farther in mine and my family's interest; accordingly I waited upon the princess at the hour appointed, and had the honour to present my sister and our children to her; and she receiv'd them with that goodness and affability, which made her the delight of the *French* court. My niece was a very amiable child, and not above twelve or thirteen years of age. The princess indulg'd her the highest marks of her favour, and promised she should be of her household, when she was fifteen years of age. The conversation turn'd for some time on generals, when I at last took notice of my meeting the lord *Terwill* in the morning as I was coming out of the palace. I afterwards told her highness the confusion this had thrown me into; and how perplex'd I was at the thoughts of my being obliged to discover myself to him, for the sake of my children. The princess judg'd what it was that gave me pain, without my explaining myself very far. I suppos'd, says she, by your so earnestly desiring me not to name you to him, that there

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was something between you. However, I know him to be a man of honour; and you may be persuaded that he will not make an ill use of the confidence which viscount *Axminster* had in his friendship. He'll make but a very short stay in *France*, and is come purely upon my affairs. Tho' I have no authority over his lordship, you may depend that he'll soon, at my request, give up whatever belongs to your children. You have no occasion to speak to him upon that account, for I'm sure he'll do it at once at my bare request. Was not this, says she, what you desire, and what you possibly were afraid of asking me? I answer'd her highness, that 'twas much more than I desir'd; and that I could not have expected all this from so great a princess, had I not known her to be goodness itself; but won't, says I with submission to your highness, his lordship think it a little strange, to be asked to give up what he has in his hands, without knowing to whom? I observ'd farther, that I could prevail so far upon myself as to tell my lord who I am; that I should even think myself oblig'd to pay my acknowledgments to him; that therefore the only difficulty was, how I should conceal my

wife's irregular conduct from him, which I look'd upon as impossible in case she must be discover'd to him; and at the same time know that we don't live together. I take you, says her highness; but the difficulty is not so great as you imagine. Your lady has wisely chose to retire from the world, and 'tis probable she'll never leave her solitude. Can't you tell lord *Terwill* that she's dead? Don't be afraid that your lady would ever attempt to contradict that report, should it ever come to her ears. — I highly approv'd these hints, and therefore, says I, madam, I am perswaded this is the only course I can take; and I don't doubt but his lordship will look upon what you affirm in my favour, to be as valid, as any thing my wife can say. But sure was ever man more unhappy than I! Pardon, madam, says I with a deep sigh, this involuntary cry, which my grief and ill fortune forces from me. You see me reduc'd to the fatal necessity of employing artifice to conceal what ought to be my greatest glory, and which will now cover me with shame and ignominy. Gods! I therefore don't dare to say my wife is living! She is dead with respect to me, and much more so then
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with regard to the rest of the world, who will now believe she is in her grave!

THE sensation which arose from these words was so violent and bitter, that I felt the tears trickle from my eyes, at which I was asham'd, and therefore dry'd 'em immediately. Her highness was struck at seeing me; for 'tis scarce possible for a person to hear the natural expressions which flow from deep anguish, and not be mov'd: I even observ'd that a tear stood in her eye; however, she assum'd a smiling countenance; when she reproach'd me for my weakness, and laugh'd at my philosophy. I answer'd, alas! madam, either your goodness is wanting, or you see plainly that 'tis most necessary to me. As for philosophy, I at once give it up, as a useless mistress whom I have serv'd to no purpose, and that always fails me when her assistance is most necessary. But in case any thing is more capable of succouring me than philosophy, 'tis your highness's compassion; I therefore beseech you not to refuse me the testimonies of it. Let me alone, says she; I have thought of a remedy which will be more efficacious than you imagine, and I'll take care to send it you. Saying this, we left her highness, who

then desir'd my sister to come and visit her often with the children.

I HAD taken care to chuse a lone house near *St. Cloud*, as was before observ'd, and such as suited with the design I had of living as retir'd as possible. The wood or grove that belong'd to it was spacious enough; in the most solitary part of which there was a little house, consisting of two rooms and a closet, which were fit to repose in, after the fatigue of a walk. This hermitage I generally retir'd to, and furnish'd it very prettily: and tho' I did not hope to meet with any farther succour from reading, I nevertheless bought so many books, and put into it, as made a little library. Here I propos'd to pass the greatest part of my time, that is, those hours I should not spend with the princess. I us'd myself never to be out of it, but at the hour of meals; and would often have my victuals brought thither. I led much the same life here as I had done in *Saumur*; in reflecting incessantly on the calamities I had met with; in begging heaven for that peace which I could no longer expect from men; in sometimes turning a book over, but distracted by a thousand cruel reflections, which prevented my taking a delight in what I read:

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at other times oppress'd by the violence of my inward pangs, when I would throw myself on the bed, but found sleep, instead of easing my tortures, a fresh source of disquietude, by the fatal and terrifying dreams with which my imagination was rack'd.

ONE day word was brought me, that a clergyman, sent from the princess, desir'd to speak with me. My mind was then in one of those gloomy situations, in which my sorrows seem'd to prey upon me with redoubled violence. However, I order'd the servant to bring him to me. This person was a jesuit. All I knew of this society was its name; except that I had heard some particulars concerning it, which did not much redound to its credit. Being therefore prejudiced against the *French* clergy, as was before observ'd, ever since the troubles they had brought me into at *Saumur*; I certainly shou'd not have allow'd him admittance, but merely upon her highness's account. I that instant thought, that the jesuit brought the remedy which the princess had hinted to me; and I began to fear, that 'twas of the same nature with that which the minister of *Saumur*, and father *le Bane* had administer'd, viz. such

an one as would only heighten my uneasiness. The ecclesiastic was introduc'd into my library, when he address'd me in a very civil manner, and I found him as polite, and not quite so affected as father *le Bane*. He told me, that among the several commissions with which her highness had entrusted him, he would open with that which he look'd upon as the least important, tho' at the same time it was greatly so in itself; but added, that he gave it this name, because he was sensible that I had very little esteem for the advantages which it would procure me. He then gave me a paper, the contents of which were in *English*, and desir'd me to read it before he explain'd himself farther. This was an instrument sign'd by the lord *Terwill*, by which he acknowledg'd that viscount *Axminster* at his leaving *England*, had made over certain possessions to him, an inventory whereof was there insert'd; and oblig'd himself, by this instrument, to restore them to such of the viscount's heirs, as should make good their title. He added, that as he did not know these heirs, he therefore had thought himself bound in honour and by his conscience, to cause this declaration to be drawn up, in order to prevent

vent any divisions and disputes which might arise after his death; and therefore had thought proper to make it over to *Henrietta Maria*, dutchess of *Orleans*; to be dispos'd of as she should think proper, having had the greatest experience of her humanity and justice.

WHAT I admir'd particularly in this illustrious princess, was, the former of those virtues, which had prompted her to follow with so much care and address, the method which was most conformable to my desires. This instrument not only secur'd the inheritance of my children, but rid me of a thousand inconveniencies I should otherwise have been expos'd to. There now was no longer occasion of employing artifice in order to impose on lord *Terwill*, by pretending that my wife was dead. Both of us were dispens'd from appearing, since her highness was pleas'd to take the whole management of this affair in some manner upon herself. As to the satisfaction I had propos'd to meet with, in making myself known to lord *Terwill*, I was not now oblig'd to be so hasty in that matter; and I flatter'd myself that I should one day or other meet with an opportunity for that purpose. Hence 'tis plain that the

service her highness had done me, was accompanied by every thing that could heighten its merit, whether I consider'd the circumstances, or the effects which would result from it.

I DESIRED the jesuit, in case he went back to *St. Cloud*, to return the princess the utmost thanks, in my name; being resolved to go and acquit myself of that duty forthwith. But the father, upon my telling him this, interrupted me just as I was rising up: Hold, sir, says he; I have not yet acquainted you with the commission of greatest consequence. We must, sir, after having taken this care of your worldly interest, endeavour to be of service to your quiet; and I am mistaken in what her highness told me, if you have not this most at heart. I was very much afraid, upon hearing these words, that the princess had let him too far into the secret of all my pains, for which reason I made him no answer. But I found by the sequel of his discourse, that he had only been inform'd in general, that I had found the severest treatment both from love and fortune. I know, says he, that you have met with unparallel'd calamities; that you have long sought for a remedy; and that neither philosophy, your conver-

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fation with the minister in *Saumur*; with the father of the oratory, or the bishop, cou'd administer the least ease. But, dear sir, to whom did you address your self? to philosophy, a decrepit old creature; who, in her youthful days, had nothing amiable belonging to her but a name; who was perhaps capable of making fools; but never to procure happiness; and is now fit only to amuse children in schools. To whom did you address your self? to a protestant and two jansenists! good God! what hands were you got into! and how could you expect a remedy, from things which are productive of the greatest evils? Return thanks to heaven, says he with an air of triumph, for having sav'd you from the poison of empiricks, and preserv'd you to receive the succour which I am now going to offer. Saying these words he rose up, and casting his eye on my books, and spying only philosophers, antient and modern; what do I see, says he with the same tone of voice; fools, madmen and blind wretches? O sir, sir, can the sophisms and illusions of these impostors impose upon you any longer? How can you return to a source, which you found was made up of vanity and corruption? If I may advise,

throw them all into the fire ; and when you shall be dispos'd to listen to my instructions, then let me compose your library.

I SHOULD but faintly express the fire, the ease, the politeness and gayety with which he pronounc'd these words. This made me immediately conclude, that the person who now spoke to me was a church-fop ; and telling her highness my thoughts on this matter the same evening ; she assur'd me that this name not only suited the person she had sent to me, but the greatest part of the society to which he belong'd. I know not, says she, whether I shall make 'em a compliment, when I assure you that I like them upon that very account ; and among the several orders of friars, there is none affords me so much diversion as this. These can assume every shape at pleasure ; we perceive something so sparkish, so gallant in all their actions ; that every person who has some taste for pleasure, must be delighted to have them perpetually buzzing about him. Their presence and their habit gives a sanction to a thousand things ; and we indulge ourselves, without the least remorse, to every thing that pleases. As for my own part, continues the princess, I will own that

that they make me fond of religion; and I can't think why 'tis look'd upon to be so severe a thing, in case it be really what they represent it.

I THOUGHT this character the more just, as I my self had already made the same reflections, while I was discoursing with the jesuit. Tho' his carriage surpriz'd me a little at first, I confess'd to him that I had reap'd very little benefit from philosophy, or the religious conversations in which I had been engag'd in *Saumur* and *Angers*. I added, that the false steps which had been taken in those places, had prejudic'd me very much against any consolation which might be administer'd to me in a religious way. I have now, says I, lost all hopes of every kind, since philosophy proves ineffectual, and I find so little succour in religion. To this he answer'd, that I had lost the latter too soon, but that he'd soon give me an opportunity of recovering it: that he was pleas'd to find me resolv'd not to be led on after a blind way; that he lov'd to employ reason in all things; that as all the arguments he had to propose, were founded on the most solid principles; he therefore was not afraid of de-
scribing the remedies he had to offer, be-
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ing fully persuaded, that I should immediately approve them. Give me leave, says he, to explain them in one word. We will begin by rejecting philosophy, unless you shall think fit to call the new system I am going to propose by that name. As for religion, it will be of great use to us; but then I shan't engage you in such obscure and knotty questions, as were perhaps propos'd to you in *Saumur* and *Angers*; but shall borrow such particulars from it only, as are most agreeable, and at the same time most necessary.

You must first suppose, says he, that considering the gloomy situation of your mind, two things must be done in order to effect a cure: the first is, to efface the remembrance of your afflictions; and the second, to make your heart susceptible of pleasure. Altho' these objects seem at first sight to resemble one another; you will yet find them vastly different, in case you consider them attentively. I shan't now describe minutely the methods I intend to make use of; suffice it that religion will be of service to the first of these designs. Alas! says he, turning his eyes towards heaven, would it could contribute alone to the
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second! but we are form'd of flesh and blood; that is to say, we are not most delighted with spiritual pleasures. Nevertheless, this sad and dejected heart requires to be sooth'd. I hear its sighs and I easily discover its cravings. Gracious heaven!——Let me take my course. I know what it wants, and am certain that it will obtain a wish'd for calm, when once this is obtain'd. Thus will I lead you by two paths which will terminate in happiness. By the one, you'll be freed from the importunate melancholy which preys upon your spirits, and peace will be restor'd to your mind. But then, a bare exemption from pain, is not enough to make you happy; especially after the tedious, the dreadful sufferings you have labour'd under. By my assistance your heart shall again be sensible to the soft motions of pleasure, and this I promise to bring about imperceptibly. Once again, sir, I beg you to put some confidence in me, and then all will be well.

SUCH random promises as these could not easily inspire me with the confidence which the father desir'd me to entertain. However, the respect I ow'd the princess, who had sent this new comforter to me, oblig'd me to shew him some marks of esteem

teem and approbation. This made him more urgent with me; and taking the civility I continu'd to shew him, for an absolute consent; he told me at his going away, that he would immediately prepare what was so necessary to my peace, and return the next day, when he would explain himself farther.

I HAD the honour of being admitted that evening to the princess, when I thank'd her for the two favours she had indulg'd me that day. I gave her an account of every thing that had pass'd between the jesuit and me, when her highness form'd the judgment I have already taken notice of; and tho' I had no manner of inclination to make a trial of the method he propos'd; yet as the princess was urgent with me to submit to it, I was oblig'd to acquiesce. What risk, says she, will you run? If you consider it only as an amusement, it will, at worst, divert your disquietudes for some time. You don't know what a comical kind of creatures these jesuits are.—— Upon this, I consented to hear what the father had to say. As I did not agree to this, merely from the thoughts that it might be a diversion, as her highness assur'd me it would be, neither did I do it from the

hopes

hopes that it would prove of some consolation. And indeed I should have been very much mistaken, since the adventure it engag'd me in, fill'd me with confusion and anxiety, and occasion'd me to blush a thousand times at my weakness.

THE jesuit return'd to visit me, at the hour he had appointed. That morning I had receiv'd a chest of books from him, which he had carefully collected for my perusal; however, I did not open it in his absence. He came about noon. As I had invited him to dine with me, care had been taken to provide a handsome repast. The father did honour to the entertainment, by eating prodigious heartily of every dish. Dinner being ended, he open'd his morality with some reflections on the pleasures of the table. You have, indeed, sir, says he, treated me in a most splendid manner; but what occasion was there for this abundance, or rather profusion of dishes? I told him naturally, that I had made this entertainment purely upon his account, and that I my self was vastly indifferent with regard to dainties. Sir, says he, you don't take me: I am far from condemning a moderate relish for good cheer; and I even

even believe that this kind of pleasure has its share too in forming what we call a happy life: but then methinks, a man of sense, should not make it consist so much in a multitude of viands, as in neatness and delicacy. As for instance, you can't be too careful that your victuals be well drest, nor be too nice in the wines you chuse for your ordinary drinking. But then, what occasion was there for so great a variety of dishes and liquors? Be assur'd that we suffer for this sooner or later; our taste degenerates; we feed upon pernicious food, and you can't imagine how greatly this prejudices our happiness. I'll assure you, says I, I make very little distinction in the dishes that come before me: my sorrows make every thing bitter, and change the most wholesome nourishment into poison. Let me alone, says he; I know what must be done to make you recover your taste. We'll begin by the affections and the understanding, and you'll find how naturally every thing will follow from my principles.

WE then went to my summer-house, whither I had order'd the chest of books to be carried. The jesuit open'd it before me, and taking out the volumes, gave them to me one by one. THE

THE first he put into my hands was a little *French* catechism, written by one *Canisius*, a jesuit. This, says he, is a little golden book; 'tis the essence and elixir of religion. Read but this little piece, which you see is hardly bigger than my finger, and in less than an hour you'll know as much as all our doctors and bishops; nay as much as the pope himself, says he with a smile, leering at me by one corner of his eye. Stop here; don't deviate from the principles which it inculcates, and you may depend upon being as firm in religion as a general council. He next presented me with a work, entitled, *Devotion made easy*, written also by a jesuit. This, resumed he, is for morals, the other is for doctrine; the former includes the law, the latter the practice of it. You'll here find every thing that is necessary for salvation, and will be surpriz'd to see how matters are softned. When once you have perused this work, you'll never have occasion for any other. You and I will read it over together. Here you'll meet with a cure for all your troubles, or you'll find it no where. He after this drew some other books of devotion out of his pocket, in the same strain, all
which

which he applauded successively. Put these, says he, in the room of your *Plato* and *Socrates*; and read them every day for an hour or two.

As a much greater number of books remain'd in the chest, I waited impatiently to hear the titles of them all. However, he did not do this, 'till after he had declar'd the use of them by way of prelude. He observ'd to me, that as it was not possible for the mind to have always a relish for serious things, it was necessary to yield to that weakness of nature; but that there were such things as profitable amusements, which a well-dispos'd mind knew how to make advantage of: that I was particularly oblig'd to make this experiment whenever it was necessary; that the books he was going to offer me, would amuse the affections and understanding at the same time; and consequently, that nothing was better adapted to forward the success of the design he had explained to me. Having said this, he read the titles of several books of poetry, novels, and romances; assuring me, that they were the productions of the greatest genius's of the age; and advis'd me, to read these pieces, particularly, as often as possible; in order to prevent my giving

ing into meditation, which, he assur'd was of dreadful consequence, both to me, and to all persons in my circumstances. I not only had never heard of the amusing works abovemention'd, but had not even the least idea of the subject of them. I took them from the jesuit; and tho' I hop'd, upon his bare word, that they'd be of some advantage to me, I yet would not form a judgment of their merits, till after I had examin'd them.

WHAT I now, says he, put into your hands, is only to prevent retirement from being a burthen to you; and I hope to be here frequently, in order to assist you in a more solid manner by my discourses. I at the same time would advise you to go more into company. Her highness will always be vastly glad to see you in *St. Cloud*. And as courts and gilded roofs don't always administer the greatest pleasures; I have procur'd you an acquaintance, who will suit your humour wonderfully, and consequently be vastly pleasing to you. This person lives in the neighbourhood; I have already represented your character to him in the manner you deserve, and he expects you with impatience.—— You make vast dispatch, says I; I now begin to
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have an idea of the manner in which you intend to dispel my melancholy, 'Tis indeed certain, that so gay a life as that you propose to me, would at last produce this effect, were I capable of making a habit of it; but that is the difficult point, or rather what I look upon as absolutely impossible. You don't know, that when my mind is in it's most happy situation, nothing is more abhorrent to it, than that perpetual oblivion of one's self; and that there's nothing I would more willingly be free from, than reflection and meditation. The remedy therefore which you offer me, would be almost as painful as the evils I suffer. He answer'd, that I ought at least for my own sake, to make a trial of it; that I should not thereby enter into any engagement, but what might be broke at pleasure; and that whenever company was displeasing, I might return to my solitude. At last I consented to wait upon him, particularly after he had drawn the character of the persons to whom he was to introduce me. The person in question, says he, is a protestant gentleman, whom I am endeavouring to make a convert to our religion by his majesty's command. You'll be delighted with his wisdom and good sense.

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He leads a retir'd life as you do, having no other company but his wife and daughter. You have too good a taste, says he with a mysterious smile, not to wish to see them again, when once you have been in their company.

ACCORDINGLY we went together, in my coach, to the gentleman, who did not live above two miles from me. The compliments they paid me at my coming in, gave me reason to believe I was expected; and I indeed found in the gentleman's countenance and conversation, whatever my conductor had promis'd; for he appear'd to be a person of excellent sense; witty, polite, a taste for the sciences, and inform'd with the most exalted notions of honour and virtue. We discours'd for some time before the ladies appear'd. The jesuit, as though he were impatient to have me see them, desir'd Mr. R—— to procure me that satisfaction; and immediately he indulg'd me that favour with the best grace imaginable. His lady came in, who look'd to be about forty years of age, and seem'd by her air and aspect to be a person of condition; but all my glances were in a moment directed to her daughter, whom I took rather for some deity than a mortal

mortal being. Nature never lavish'd her perfections with greater profusion. I at first barely admir'd her as the most lovely object I had ever seen. The delicacy of her complexion, the regularity of her features, the dazzling vivacity of her eyes; a thousand charms diffus'd over her face and her whole person, form'd such a spectacle, as I could not for some time satiate my self with gazing upon. Nor were her words, or the tone of her voice less graceful; and to complete such a number of perfections, the whole was accompanied with an air of sweetness and modesty; which seem'd to declare, that so beautiful a body was inform'd by a soul of a superior nature. Though my admiration was rais'd as high as it possibly could be, I yet had so great a command over my self, as not to shew it very strongly. We spent the rest of the visit in mutual civilities; and were so well pleas'd with one another, that we promis'd to cultivate each other's friendship. THE jesuit watch'd me more narrowly than I imagin'd he had done; and ask'd me, with a smile, as we return'd, how I lik'd the gentleman and his family. I answer'd, that I had all the reason imaginable to like them. And the lady says he;

he; is not she a sweet creature? Oh she's an angel, says I; and I question whether she's to be match'd in the whole world. Upon this he assum'd a more serious countenance. I knew, says he, you'd pass this judgment; and will confess to you, that I had some design in introducing you. You are looking out for remedies against sorrow; now will it be possible for you ever to find a more lovely one? Alas! says I, looking upon him with surprize, you don't know me: I understand what remedy 'tis you intend to propose; but then you have not heard that love alone is the cause of my greatest misfortunes. He interrupted me, by declaring he was not a stranger to that particular; and that this was the very reason why he advis'd me in the manner he had done. I am unacquainted, says he, with the detail of your adventures; but I form'd a judgment of you from the general idea which the princess gave me of your character. You are naturally tender-hearted. Be assur'd that love is the only remedy, to heal the evils it may have occasion'd: believe this to be true, for I have long studied the heart of man. He added, you will now easily understand the system I have form'd, in

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order to work a cure: this I shall reduce to four principal heads; first, religion, whose motives and sublime considerations will soon diminish the sense of your pains; secondly, the perusal of agreeable books, which will partly dispel the remembrance of them; thirdly, company, which will banish them entirely; and lastly, the sweets of love, which will steal into your heart like a healing balm, and inspire you with a relish for pleasure.

THO' nothing could be more whimsical, and undoubtedly more unnatural, than this medley of sensual pleasures and religion; I yet did not despise his system, because it was a medley. But as I imagin'd I should be equally incapable of devoting my self either to company or love, I therefore declar'd that I did not expect to reap any benefit by his counsels: however, he was not discourag'd for this. As he did not know any thing relating to my wife, and in all probability took me for a widower, who was at liberty to love whom I pleas'd; he persisted in declaring that I should soon experience the efficaciousness of his method. I will suppose, that his views in introducing me to this young lady were entirely honest; and that he did it purely to give

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me,

me an opportunity of falling in love with her, and afterwards making her my wife. But tho' his project was not successful, it yet had this effect, *viz.* it brought me to this shameful confession, *viz.* that I did not know my own heart, when I imagin'd it was secure against the attacks of love.

WHEN we were got to my house, he took his leave; and now my business of greatest importance, was, to peruse the books he had left with me. The first therefore that I open'd was the divine catechism, in which he had assur'd me all things belonging to religion were comprehended. As I had as yet but a very imperfect idea of the truths of the Christian religion, the reader will naturally suppose, that this book was not over satisfactory. Several things were obscure; and had they been clearer, yet my mind was of such a turn, that unless a doctrine is corroborated by proofs, it could not make the least impression on me. The following reflection was the first I made, after having read it over attentively. On what grounds does this man pretend to make me submit blindly to his authority, or that of his book? There is undoubtedly no religion but has its principles; and the most senseless and

incoherent in the whole world, might very safely offer its principles to me in this manner. Consequently there is none of 'em but has the same right, or rather that has as little, to require my assent to them without the least proof or examination. I concluded therefore, that I was to wait the jesuit's explications, before I could expect to reap the fruits, which he had assur'd me I should, from his catechism and other religious books. After this, I took up some of the works of gallantry and amusement, which he had rank'd in the second class of remedies. I dip't a little into them all, but did not find that above two or three at most were any ways rational. A few ingenious thoughts, a happy turn of expression, some soft or smiling images; such were the weapons the jesuit offer'd me, to drive away the remembrance of my pains. However, after I had look'd into these pieces for about a quarter of an hour, I threw 'em from me with the utmost indignation. Heavens! says I, does he sport with my sorrows! To imagine that it is possible for me to be comforted by such trifling amusements as these, is the highest insult.

I NOW

I now entertain'd a meaner idea than ever, of the promises with which the jesuit had fill'd me. As to his third method of cure, I look'd upon it as more improbable than the two former; and I resolv'd not to make use of his fourth remedy. Upon this I was firmly determin'd to rid my self of this troublesome physician; and to make my excuses to her highness for rejecting a person she was pleas'd to send me. He was to return the next day; when I left the following message, which I order'd my servant to deliver in the most civil terms, *viz.* that I begg'd him not to give himself any farther trouble about me. However, I was vastly pleas'd that he had introduc'd me to so agreeable a family as that of Mr. R——, whom I reflected on with the highest pleasure, and resolv'd to keep up a close correspondence with them. As Mr. R——'s temper and disposition suited very much with mine, I did not doubt but I might engage him to be a good friend. The charms of his daughter, were strongly painted in my imagination, and whenever she was present to my memory, my sorrows were sooth'd. I even perceiv'd that she occur'd too often to it, and for that reason I

sometimes endeavour'd to blot out the lovely idea. I then would fall again into my old way of thinking; but while I was recollecting all the unhappy circumstances of my life, some circumstance or other would naturally, as it were, awake the remembrance of miss R——. Whenever I exclaim'd against my wife's infidelity, the next moment I would compare her charms with those of the young lady abovemention'd. Such, would I say, was my ungrateful, my perjur'd wife; at least such she appear'd to my eyes when I thought her my only happiness.

I SPENT that evening, and part of the night, in this sort of inquietude. Nevertheless, heaven is my witness, that so far from having the least mistrust, of what was now taking root insensibly in my heart; I did not once suspect that my passions would have betray'd, and brought me into danger. The reader has heard, in what manner I had curb'd them hitherto. Sorrow was properly the only passion I had to struggle with. Whatever love had inspir'd was pure and innocent. I will own, that I was fearless and unguarded, because I had not the least Notion of danger. And indeed I sunk under it at once without making the least
oppo-

opposition; and an odd circumstance, is, that my reason was as soon impos'd upon as my senses. I undoubtedly would have suppress'd this part of my story, which indeed reflects shame upon me, had fame and reputation been the motives of my writing. However, I promis'd to present the public with a faithful account of my calamities and weakness, and not to make my own elogium.

UPON my waking, my imagination was employ'd on miss R—— to such a degree, that I cou'dn't think of any thing else. *Cupid*, for 'twas he himself, rais'd the most delightful emotions in my bosom; and whether it were an effect of the dreams, which had exhibited themselves to my fancy in sleep, or from the nature of the passion itself; I awak'd in such an extasy of joy, as I had never felt but in the most delicious moments of my life. I, however, made some reflections on this change; and as I did not endeavour to impose upon myself, it was easy for me to judge the cause of it. I love, says I, that's certain. But then I added immediately, in order to prevent the reproaches of reason, Is it a crime to love? I have found on a thousand occasions, that love is an innocent passion. I be-

liev'd it to be not only lawful, but essential to my happiness, at a time when I made wisdom and virtue my study. How should it cease to be so, since it charms my grief, and fills my soul with joy? No; I have found a remedy to my sorrows; 'tis love, and I feel the effects of it. The jesuit had a more just notion of things than I, and knew my heart, better than I myself did.

THIS way of reasoning appear'd so solid and conclusive, that I thought it unanswerable. I even forgot for some time, that I was engag'd by such ties, as absolutely forbid my forming any others; and even, when I recollected this, I look'd upon it as a weak and trifling objection; and destroy'd it so easily, that my heart seem'd prepar'd to answer it. Yes, says I, I am bound by the strong ties of marriage; but the present affair relates only to love. As my wife has violated her conjugal vows, I certainly am entirely disengag'd from her. Ungrateful woman! Did I not adore her? Should not I have lov'd her with my latest breath? Alas! I should still prefer her to the possession of a throne, were it possible for her to recover her lost innocence; but my shame and her perfidy, are too flagrant.

Can

Can any one therefore condemn me, for endeavouring to forget her?

LET me consider, says I; This difficulty I can clear up in an instant. I, however, cannot possibly dissolve the engagements by which I am bound to my wife, and I don't even intend to do it. This is a fatal chain which I must be forc'd to drag so long as I live. But then, I ought to despise her; 'twas a shameful weakness in me, to doubt whether I still lov'd her. But 'tis certain that the heart must love something. 'Twas not to a needless purpose, that heaven suggested to me, that love would heal all my sorrows; consequently I may indulge the passion which I have for miss R——. 'Tis true indeed, that I cannot propose any thing farther in this, than the bare pleasure of soothing it. But what did I ever seek for in love? Was it the bare pleasure of the senses? But this degrades the human creature to a brute.——No: 'tis the sweet union of two hearts, between whose sensations and impulses the utmost harmony is found; 'tis a taste for merit, 'tis the inexpressible charm of tenderness; 'tis all that I can no longer expect to find in my faithless partner; or can seek for in another, without also incurring the guilt of

infidelity; for this kind of tye may be dissolv'd; the vows and oaths of marriage, are no ways relative to this delicate part of love. The moment a person who had promis'd eternal fidelity, violates his engagements, the other party is free. The body only is bound by verbal promises. Now if this is the only tye, I'll never break it.

I REVOLV'D a great many more reflections in my mind that morning; but what is strange, is, that they all tended to justify my new passion, and I did not form a single argument to combat it. This, like an impetuous flood, carried away all my ideas with its current.— In the afternoon, word was brought that Mr. R—— was come to visit me, upon which I ran to receive him with the utmost satisfaction. The servant had not told me, that he had brought his wife and daughter along with him; but 'tis impossible to express the exquisite pleasure I felt, when the idol of my heart appear'd. I paid them all the highest compliments, when beginning to discourse, we unbosom'd ourselves with much greater freedom than we had done before. Mr. R—— desir'd to enjoy my friendship with as much warmth as I requested his. This I promis'd

promis'd at once; and in order to cement it the more, I engag'd my sister and niece to cultivate the acquaintance of his lady and daughter. The discourse turn'd for a considerable time, on the great zeal which the jesuit discover'd for the conversion of hereticks. Mr. R—— who by this time entertain'd so favourable an idea of me, as to be perswaded he might trust me with a secret, without incurring the least danger; confess'd naturally to me, that he was almost tired with the jesuit's visits and instructions. I can't think, says he, in what manner this scene will end. Prudence obliges me to permit his visits, because I have an express order from his majesty for that purpose. 'Tis with the utmost regret that I listen to his arguments, for I am too firmly perswaded of the truth of my own religion, ever to change it; but then he's so very troublesome, that I cannot say whether my patience will let me bear with him much longer. On the other side, I'm oblig'd to act a very cautious part. The employments I enjoy, and even my estate will be taken from me, in case he does not make a favourable report to the king; who seems to be more exasperated against the protestants than ever. We daily hear

of nothing but persecution. The *chamber of the edict*, in *Roan*, has just now been suppress'd; and the court threatens to abolish all our privileges; and to increase our calamities, we are assur'd that Mr. *de Turenne* designs to turn papist. We are not to doubt but the king's zeal will be still more enflam'd, after so great a conquest as this is made; and will use us with less indulgence than ever. I am therefore in the utmost perplexity; and I scarce know how to reconcile my conscience and worldly interest. I answer'd, that I was sorry to hear his affairs were in so dangerous condition; and to shew that his fears were not altogether vain, I told him all that had happen'd to me and my family in *Angers*. If, says I, foreigners are treated in this manner, what may not the natives expect? I should have left *France* immediately after this treatment, had not I been detain'd in it by her highness's goodness, and his majesty's assurances, even from his own mouth, of support and protection. But with regard to you, sir, what hinders you to screen your self from persecution, by withdrawing into some of the neighbouring countries? Do not *England* and *Holland* offer you an asylum? — This, says he, is not so easy a matter

matter as you imagine, for the parts are not open. Besides, can I leave the kingdom without a farthing in my pocket, and expose my family to the utmost extremes of misery? I am so well known, that I shall not be allow'd to sell my estate; and several of those who call themselves friends, and my servants, are spies over me. We now began to confide in one another without the least reserve; which, however, did not hinder me from observing all his daughter's motions, and to undo myself by gazing on her lovely face.

'Tis well known, that a little familiarity makes a great change, both in carriage and the turn of a conversation; and this we experienc'd almost in an instant. The four ladies, observing that Mr. R--- and I now discours'd together with much greater freedom, they imitated us, and began to converse with the utmost familiarity. 'Twas then that I began again to admire the charms of the amiable *Cecilia*, for by this name she was call'd by her mother. Tho' she still continued very modest and reserv'd, I yet could plainly perceive, that she was naturally of a gay temper; and by an effect peculiar to love only, nothing now delighted me so much as that disposition of mind, tho' I had

had till then relish'd nothing so much as a grave and severe behaviour. A smile, or a gay expression from miss *Cecilia*, would excite the sweetest sensations of joy in my heart. At the bare sight of her, my blood seem'd to flow with greater liberty; I, methoughts, breath'd easier, and fancied that I felt a certain sprightliness in every limb, which I had not even been sensible to in my youth.

HOWEVER, I did not desire to express what I thought of her, any otherwise than by general civilities; and don't know whether she had experience enough to guess at the meaning of my glances and my admiration. With regard to myself, I was not sufficiently vers'd in gallantry, to attempt insinuating myself into her affections in a methodical way. I was pleas'd to find that I lov'd her; and this, perhaps, was the only fruit I expected to reap from my passion. I undoubtedly should have indulg'd myself in the pleasure of seeing, and discoursing with her; but then I cannot certainly say, that I should ever have taken the liberty to once mention the word love, in her presence. What I now say is so true, that notwithstanding the kind of approbation which I had already given to my sentiments,

ments, I yet could not forbear examining them afresh after she was gone. I computed, as it were, how far I was resolv'd to indulge my heart. I'll spend, says I, the afternoon of every other day at Mr. R—'s house; there I shall have the pleasure to see the charming *Cecilia*; to sit by her, and hear her talk. I'll gather so much from her sight and discourse, as shall suffice to amuse me agreeably the days that I am absent from her. Thus innocent were my views hitherto. In a word, I abandon'd myself thus freely to love, purely to nourish it in my bosom, and in order that it might remove my sorrows. However, as the little god had insinuated himself slyly into my heart; and that I did not begin to argue in his favour, 'till he had obtain'd a superiority over it; I ought to have discover'd by the change which was wrought in me, that I was now over-reach'd by him; and therefore that he'd continue to impose upon me. Be this as it will, I know not what he might have made me do; had I listned only to his suggestions, or my own impulses; and I have this comfort in the shame which afterwards follow'd, that had I not listned to the advice of another person, I should not have brought it upon me.

THE

THE jesuit return'd in the evening, with a design to spend the evening with me. I was now so delighted with the past events of the day, and was so greatly chang'd in my humour, that I had countermanded the order I gave the night before; he thereupon was admitted, and I was highly pleased at his coming in. You now, says I, behold a man who is quite chang'd from what he was yesterday. This fill'd him with so much joy, that he interrupted me immediately, by saying; I see it plainly by your countenance; and I thank heaven for it. I flatter myself that my books and advice have contributed to this happy alteration. Your books? says I, very naturally; — no, no; and I'll assure you they gave me so little satisfaction, that I threw them aside. But, incase you call the inclination I have for miss *Cecilia*, the effect of your counsel, I then must confess myself greatly obliged to you; and that I have already reap'd the greatest benefit from it. I then expatiated on the beautiful qualities of that young lady, with the pleasure which a person feels, who talks of a beloved object; and looking on the jesuit as a kind of confidant, I let him into the whole state of my heart. After having heard me with an air of satisfaction; I'm

I'm now firmly persuaded, says he, that a cure will be wrought upon you; that he had never doubted of the success of the method which he had proposed to me; that he could have wish'd I had complied with his whole prescription; for then, says he, the fruits of it must have been more perfect; that the service I should have reap'd from religion in this particular, would have exceeded infinitely my hopes and my imagination. — I interrupted him in my turn, and told him, that I ought not to be accus'd, for not approving that part of the remedy which he had offer'd me under the name of religion; for, says I, the arguments which I met with in the books you lent me, are very far from being satisfactory. He then made me such an answer, as I looked upon then, and still continue to do, as a very odd one: I understand, says he, what it is displeases you in the little piece I lent you. You are mighty fond of reasoning, and are not satisfied with any thing less than demonstration. But I am to tell you, that 'tis hardly possible to arrive at any thing certain in religious matters; and persons of the greatest sense are not always the best Christians: Faith requires simplicity] and submission. Harkee, says he, I'll now tell you a reflection

tion which I have made a thousand times over. A man of sense is so far from being dissatisfied, that we only require him to be of a tractable turn of mind, and put reason quite out of the question; that he ought to look upon our method as an infinitely advantageous one. In case religion was not to be attain'd but by dint of reasoning, 'tis of so important a nature, that we should be oblig'd to study it all our life-time, and how great must be the toil, to be for ever poring over the bible, and several other obscure pieces, in order to discover the true sense of them? Now every thing necessary to salvation, is comprehended in the little book I gave you. A quarter of an hour's reading does the business. By it's assistance, you'll enjoy the several privileges of religion; you'll possess all its exalted hopes, its motives and consolations; and, then, you may devote your whole time to the most delightful employments, and may lawfully taste all the satisfactions of life. Now what think you of my reflection? — I contented myself with observing, that the examination of it would employ too much time; but that my mind was of such a cast, that 'twas not in my power to believe or disbelieve; and that it was necessary for my
reason

reason to be convinc'd by proofs. Well, says he, we are not wanting in these; and I promise to give you very satisfactory ones. However, there is no haste for this. The chief of all was, to heal your sorrows; and I am overjoy'd, that one of the methods I propos'd happens to be salutary. He afterwards ask'd me, whether I would not permit him to inform her highness of his success? To this I answer'd plainly, that this seem'd to shew, that his endeavours to cure me, were not so much the effect of zeal as of vanity; and that his only aim in it, was, to ingratiate himself the better by that means into her highness's favour. You may, says I, if you judge proper, inform the princess that I'm much easier in my mind; and that I owe this happy change to your good offices; all which I myself will confirm. But then I'm absolutely resolv'd not to let her know, that love has any thing to do in the affair. The very good father promised to do as I desir'd; and as I did not tell him any other reason to engage his silence, than the uncertainty I was in, whether the change I then found would continue; he promised me in a very agreeable manner, that he would not once open his lips about any thing I desired him to conceal; and would conclude

conclude matters wholly to my satisfaction.

However, he did not give himself much trouble about my affairs; and the thing which he promis'd as the crown of the whole work, prov'd fatal both to the amiable *Cecilia* and myself. His satisfaction was so great, so find that the beginning answer'd his hopes so well; that he had not patience to spend the night with me as he first intended. He here-

upon took his leave, with an intention to pass two or three hours at Mr. R——'s; and without telling me the reason of his leaving me so abruptly, he only assur'd me, that he would continue to serve me with greater assiduity than I could imagine. I desir'd him to give me a little more light into his design; but 'twas to no purpose.

Be assur'd, says he as he went away, I'll be very discreet, and do all that lies in my power to serve you. Observing him to leave me in such a hurry, I recollected what I had heard her highness say, viz. that such people as he are a kind of comedians. He went, indeed, to Mr. R——'s. His intention, as I afterwards found, was to act the part of a *Mercury* upon this occasion, and to incline *Cecilia* to favour me. He managed matters with wonderful skill;

conclude

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and was much abler to carry on an intrigue, than to argue with solidity on religious topics. 'Tis well known that a girl of sixteen is often seduced with no great difficulty, when she is told of the sweets which are to be tasted in love; especially, if 'tis a person she venerates, and whose counsels do half the work; for nature soon performs the rest. I myself was surpriz'd to find *Cecilia* in such a frame of mind, without my being put to any pains upon that account. I did not fail to wait upon her the next day after dinner; and met her in a lane by her father's house, where she was walking with the jesuit. 'Twas true, indeed, that any one might see 'em from the windows; but yet I cou'dn't but wonder that this man had gain'd so much power over Mr. R—— and his lady; for I did not doubt but they were highly dissatisfied to see her in his hands; and that fear alone forc'd them to this political complaisance.

The moment I saw miss *Cecilia*, I step'd out of my coach and went up to her. As I had not apprehended the meaning of the words which the jesuit spoke last to me; I was far from guessing the subject of their discourse; nevertheless, the blush which arose in the cheeks of that beautiful person

son as I approach'd her, and the fearful air with which she fix'd her eyes downwards, made me judge that she was discouraging of some matters of great importance. I was going to make an apology for my intrusion, when the jesuit prevented me, by saying, sir, I was talking of you to miss *Cecilia*; I thought, I should do her a piece of service, in acquainting her with your merit, and the inclination you have for her; and am pleas'd to find that she's of a grateful disposition. Altho' this compliment put me to some confusion, I yet answer'd immediately, that I really had the greatest veneration for the young lady; and shou'd think myself vastly happy, cou'd I be allow'd to prove the sincerity of it by my services. I have gone farther than you, says the jesuit; I have betray'd your secret; and have promis'd the lady something more from you than esteem. So blunt a declaration as this, heightned miss *Cecilia*'s blushes, and perplex'd me very much: however, I made a tender, and at the same time, a most respectful answer. — I really had a strong passion for her, the breathing of which gave me exquisite pleasure; and as this present opportunity was altogether unforeseen, the expressions I then us'd,

flow'd

flow'd altogether from my heart. Mr. R——'s coming up, who, the moment he saw my coach, came out of the house to meet me, prevented his daughter from explaining herself. The instant her father appear'd she suppress'd her blushes, and we all walk'd together into the house.

HAD I been indulg'd the freedom of conversing with miss *Cecilia* in private whenever I pleas'd, I am not sure whether I should have address'd her that afternoon, my spirits were in such confusion; and indeed, I could scarce attend to Mr. R——'s discourse, in such a manner as was necessary for my making proper answers. The jesuit wou'd look upon me every now and then with a smile, as tho' he applauded himself for the service he had done me, with regard to miss *Cecilia*. I judg'd by her silence and timidity, that she was in no less confusion than myself. She seem'd to be very thoughtful; and I observ'd that she often put her hand to her forehead, as tho' she endeavour'd to hide her eyes; but then I could see her look at me thro' her fingers. She would fix her eyes languishingly on me; and when her glances met mine, she then would shut her fingers, and thereby bereave me of the sight of her enchanting face. My passion increas'd.

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The more simple and natural all my impulses were, the easier I understood this tender language which nature itself dictated, and consequently the greater impression it made upon me.

However, though I had enjoy'd the utmost pleasure that afternoon in Miss Cecilia's company, I yet could not but think that the Jesuit had taken a very odd kind of step. I therefore desir'd him, as he was going out, to come and spend the evening with me, and enquir'd what views he had in acting after this manner. He answer'd, that his only view was to make me easy and happy, and added, that being persuad'd I was a man of sense and honour, he therefore was under no apprehensions that I should make an ill use of the victory he obtain'd for me; he assur'd, says he, that miss Cecilia loves you. I drew you in so amiable a light, and protested that you are so passionately in love with her, that I observ'd her little heart take fire as she listned. I really believe, says he, squeezing my hand at the same time, that her heart's a little treasure. I only answer'd him, with an air of indifference, that I was very much oblig'd to him for the pains he had taken. Tho' I was inflam'd with the strongest passion, yet

yet this had not made me forget my duty; and tho' I did not dare to reveal to him, what reasons I had to keep myself within certain bounds; I yet nevertheless thought myself oblig'd to hint, that there were some which I wou'd not absolutely go beyond. Possibly I was the sport of my own heart, and did not explain myself with resolution enough. However this be, the jesuit continued as officious as ever; and did all that lay in his power to make miss *Cecilia* love me.

I PAST some months, thus agreeably intoxicated by love; and was so much the more satisfied with my own conduct, as I did not find, after a mature examination, that it interfer'd in any manner with honour. This very reflection, whether the subject of it were real or imaginary, contributed almost as much to my ease, as love itself; seldom a day past, in which I had not the satisfaction of seeing the amiable *Cecilia*. Whatever is passionate in affluities; tender in behaviour, delicate in a thousand little preferences; all these were incessantly employ'd, as well to satisfy the impulses of my heart, as to insinuate myself into her affections. But what was very strange, and even surprising to myself; not a single word escap'd

me all that time, which discover'd the least intelligence between my tongue and my thoughts; for I explain'd my passion no otherwise, than by the dumb language of the eyes, and the extraordinary respect I paid her. This, undoubtedly, was an effect of those unalterable principles of virtue, which had taken such deep root in my soul, in my infant years; that these seem'd to act from nature, and did not want the assistance of reflection. The continuing in this reserve did not put me to the least struggle. I was, perhaps, at that time, the only instance of a man who lov'd with the greatest excess of passion, and yet did not entertain the least hopes or desires. I don't doubt, but miss *Cecilia* was surpriz'd, to find me observe so awful a silence, after the jesuit had introduc'd me in so advantageous a manner. She saw very plainly that I ador'd her; and I discover'd as evidently, that I had made a deep impression in her heart: so that my whole proceedings must necessarily have been a riddle to her. I would sometimes see her, involv'd in thought, fix her eyes wishfully upon me; as tho' she endeavour'd to discover what it was that thus stopt my tongue, and prevented me from expatiating on a pleasure, which so delighted my heart. I con-

I CONTINUED also to pay my court to her highness, who soon observed, that a happy change was wrought in my mind. But tho' I confess'd that my mind was infinitely more easy than it us'd to be; I yet conceal'd the cause of it, with the utmost care. I was very willing to let the jesuit enjoy the reputation, of working a complete cure on me. Her highness, the dutchess of *Orleans*, was not so much mistress of her passion, but one easily discovered, that she herself stood in need of consolation. She grew thinner every day; and 'twas observ'd, that for some time her charms faded surprizingly, and she was no longer the gay woman she us'd to be. People us'd to whisper one another in the ear, and cry, that jealousy had occasion'd this change. 'Tis certain that she imagin'd the king lov'd her; and his majesty had possibly endeavour'd to persuade her that she was dear to him. He had visited her for some time with great assiduity; they us'd to discourse in private; and calumny gave a malicious interpretation to their secret interviews. Perhaps the princess would not have valued the reports, had the effects been really what the publick thought 'em to be; but the truth was suddenly discover'd, by a circumstance

which gave her highness the greatest mortification. The king had only made use of her as a screen, to conceal the passion he entertain'd for one of her maids of honour, whose name was *la Valiere*. His majesty had long cherish'd this flame in his bosom; but at last, whether it were owing to the weakness of the lover, or the vanity and ambition of the mistress, the whole secret came out; and the world was surpris'd, to see a young woman of no birth, rais'd, in a moment, almost to the throne. An incident of so extraordinary a nature, and in which her highness had, unknowingly, been made to act so odd a part; had inflam'd her resentments to such a degree, that it occasion'd a great change in her humour and impair'd her health. Others, however, assur'd, that 'twas the duke, her consort's ill usage, that plung'd her into this deep melancholy. That prince, from a most unaccountable turn of mind, kept several mistresses publickly, and at the same time was jealous of her highness. He was daily reproaching her; and often treated her with greater scorn and contempt, than he wou'd have shewn to one of his pages. These broils were seldom spoke of in publick; for the princess was so vastly kind and humane to all her domesticks,

ticks, that not one of 'em wou'd discover any thing she might wish to have conceal'd; but 'twas impossible but I must hear of 'em, as I was almost every day at *St. Cloud*; and was consider'd as an officer of the house, rather than as a stranger. I remember an affair of an extraordinary nature, which gave that unhappy princess the utmost pain. The duke of *Orleans* would often walk from one of his mistresses houses to another; and was always drest on these occasions very plain; and sometimes had not so much as a footman after him. One day as he was going over the *Pont-neuf*, or *New-bridge* in *Paris*, he was stopt by four or five tradesmen who were half drunk, and were come thither upon a very whimsical account. As they were over a bottle, the discourse happen'd to turn upon outward behaviour and physiognomy; when one of 'em affirm'd that he would guess the profession of the first person he should meet in the street, by his gait and countenance. This appear'd so singular to the rest, that they resolv'd to put his skill to the trial; and in order to heighten their mirth, they agreed to lay a wager of a few pistoles. However, instead of fixing upon the next street for the experiment,

they made choice of the *Pont-neuf*. Unfortunately for her highness, they happen'd to come just as the duke was passing by. Being pretty much heated by wine, they did not use much ceremony, but stopp'd his highness at once, not knowing who he was. The person who was to give his judgment, after viewing him for some time ; and undoubtedly finding by his air and the delicacy of his features, that he was far from being a mechanic ; cried out, that he was not of any trade, but was certainly a cuckold. His companions were highly delighted with the sentence he had pass'd ; and as the person whom they shou'd stop, was to decide the wager ; they urged him, with all the wag-gery of people who are in liquor, to tell them at once whether he were not a cuckold. The duke would not answer their question, so that he found it a very difficult matter to get out of their hands ; however, he, at last, did, when he could not forbear reflecting on this odd adventure. He cou'd not persuade himself that it was owing merely to chance ; but fancying that he was known ; and that this was a kind of hint which was given him with regard to her highness's intrigues, he went immediately for *St. Cloud*. I was
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in the palace when he came ; and was but just come from the princess's closet, who had done me the honour to hold a long discourse with me that day. The fury that darted from the duke's eyes, at his coming in, made every body conclude that he was in a dreadful passion. Every body withdrew out of respect ; however, they cou'd not but hear his indignation break out, and the injurious expressions with which he treated the dutchess. The duke storm'd at his lady for above an hour, which threw all her women into tears. All the servants were told by the footman who had walk'd after his highness, the whole affair of the *Pont-neuf* ; but they all promis'd not to once open their lips about it. I shall pass over several circumstances of a comic nature, as not suiting with the sad story of my life.

WHATEVER might be the cause of the sorrow, which prey'd in this secret manner on her highness's spirits, she yet was as kind and affable as usual. This only increas'd her fondness for the solitude of *St. Cloud*, and made her more indifferent with regard to the pleasures of a court. She now never went to *Versailles*, but when she was absolutely oblig'd to

it; and left it as soon as she possibly cou'd. She seem'd to grow kinder every day to all her domesticks, and to all who had the honour of waiting upon her. The great concern I had for her highness's health and felicity, prompted me a thousand times to take notice, that I was very sorry to find her so melancholy as she always appear'd. But whenever I presum'd to hint any thing of this kind, she would answer me only by sighs, which spoke a dejected heart: and on these occasions, awe kept me from explaining myself farther. But tho' it was not in my power, to console her as well as I would fain have done; I yet did all I possibly cou'd. I used to stay so long with her highness, as I thought I was not troublesome. I for this purpose used to go twice daily to her palace; and would willingly have spent whole days there, had not my strong inclination for miss *Cecilia*, call'd me often to her father's.

BEING one day at *St. Cloud*, one of Mr. R——'s servants brought me a letter from his master, by which I was conjur'd, by all the ties of friendship, to go immediately to his house. Astonish'd to find him write to me in such
urgent

urgent terms, I suppos'd that something extraordinary had happen'd ; and therefore told the bearer, that I would wait upon his master immediately. I went, when I found him in his closet, with an air of consternation in his face ; and holding a letter in his hand, which seem'd to have occasion'd his disorder. Alas ! sir, says he, the moment I came in, I am undone. Read only what is writ to me, and then see whether it will be in your power to assist me on this melancholy occasion. I read it, and found that it had been sent from a protestant gentleman, his friend ; who gave him an account that the persecution began to rage in the province where he liv'd. He complain'd particularly, in the most moving terms, that his son and two daughters had been forc'd away ; but whither they were carried he knew not. He added, that the cruelties which were exercis'd in the provinces, would soon extend to the court and *Paris* ; and that he was assur'd from very good hands, that the moment Mr. *de Turenne* should have abjur'd the protestant religion ; all those who should refuse to follow his example, would be forc'd to it ; that the gentleman abovemention'd was to make his abjuration in a few weeks afterwards ;

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that

that he believ'd all those who were resolv'd not to be converts to popery, had no other refuge left, but to fly their country immediately; he therefore advised him to sell privately, as he himself was doing, as much of his estate as he possibly could; and above all, that he exhorted him to place his daughter instantly in some place where she might be safe, or that otherwise she'd be forc'd away from him.

AFTER I had read this, Mr. R—— told me that this was not all. Here, says he, is a letter which I receiv'd from Mr. *de Turenne* by the same post. As I have the honour to have a place in his esteem, I begg'd him, ingenuously, to give me his advice; firmly persuaded that he has too great a soul, to betray me on this occasion. Pray read the answer he sent me. I found that Mr. *de Turenne* had declared to him, in a very frank and friendly manner, the principal motives of his conversion. He advis'd him to imitate the pattern he had set him, rather for the sake of his soul, than that of his worldly possessions. However, that in case he was firmly determin'd not to change his religion, he advis'd him to fly immediately to *England* or *Holland*, with whatever money he could carry off—
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with him; because, he said, the time was at hand, when great numbers of people would wish they had used the same precautions. This, says Mr. R—— fills me with inexpressible perplexity. I don't know a soul in any foreign country, from whom I may beg an asylum; I can't think in what manner to dispose of my estate privately; and then I am afraid every moment of having my daughter forc'd away from me. The danger is extreme, and I cannot think of any remedy, that will be speedy enough for my purpose; unless, says he, your friendship should suggest something which may be of service to me.

AFTER having meditated a moment on what I had read and heard; I am sorry, says I, 'tis not in my power to direct you to some person in *England*; for I suppose that is the chief service you want me to do you. Altho' I am an *Englishman*, I yet have not one acquaintance in my own country. However, tho' I can't serve you myself, I possibly may get a friend to do it. We are not to expect to obtain any thing in your favour at *St. Cloud*; for courtiers are always of that religion which the monarch professes. But I have a friend who

is able to do you very great service, and I believe he really will for my sake. The person I mean is the lord *Clarendon*. Tho' this nobleman has lost the king's favour, his relations and friends wou'd serve him to the utmost. Besides, as he is at *Roan*, as he himself inform'd me by letter; it will be an easy matter for him to procure you a vessel, in which you may sail for *England*. I'll write to his lordship on this occasion by the first post. Mr. R—— answer'd, that he'd accept of my offer; but then, says he, before you've writ to his lordship and receiv'd an answer, my daughter may very possibly be forc'd away from me. Well, says I; in case you are under any apprehensions upon her account, you may send her before to *Roan*. The lord *Clarendon* will receive her with pleasure; and she may pass her time very agreeably with his lady, 'till such time as you may have settled your affairs, and be ready to set out for that city.

Mr. R—— was mightily pleased with this overture. He weigh'd the several circumstances of it afresh, and drew the following plan, in order for the putting it in execution. As I am so narrowly watch'd, says he, it will be impossible for
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my daughter to go for *Roan*, but notice will be taken of it; and consequently I shall be accus'd of sending her away by stealth. It therefore wou'd be proper to give such a colour to her flight, as may remove all suspicions. You yourself, says he, might carry her off in the night in your own coach, and convey her to *Roan*. You may ride a great number of miles in the night, by which means no one would absolutely know which way you are gone. I'll pretend the next day, to be vastly surpriz'd at her flight; and will even seem persuaded, that she is gone off with some lover. In case the spies who are set over me, should mistrust any thing, they, at least, won't have any proofs against me; and much less will they know whither you design to send her. There is, says he, but one difficulty in this project, which is, that you may possibly do your self a prejudice, in thus endeavouring to serve me.— I assur'd him, that this would not be of the least weight with me; I don't, says I, design to spend my days in *France*. There are even some affairs which require my presence in *England*, and I don't intend to stay long after you. The most unhappy circumstance that could possibly happen to me, in case

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it should be discover'd that I assisted in conveying away part of your family, would be, my being forc'd to leave this kingdom a little sooner than I intended to do.

WHAT I now spoke was sincere ; and I was so desirous of putting an end to Mr. R——'s perplexity, that I did not so much as consider that I was preparing torments for myself, in thus contributing to miss *Cecilia's* flight. However, this thought occur'd to me afterwards ; but then it was not near so afflicting, when I consider'd that I myself should pass, before 'twas very long, into *England*. The lord *Terwill* was return'd thither ; and therefore I had determin'd, for some time, to cross over into my native country, in order to settle the estate which was devolved on my children. I consider'd, at the very time as I was speaking to Mr. R——, that I might take this opportunity to leave *France* entirely ; and consequently, that I should have a better opportunity of seeing and enjoying the company of my amiable *Cecilia*, when we should be arriv'd in *England*. I therefore promis'd faithfully, to come in my coach, with two or three servants whom I might confide in, about such an hour of the night,

night, as I believ'd it would be possible for us to go off unseen by any person.

I LEFT him, in order that he might have time sufficient, to talk of these matters with his lady and daughter, and likewise to prepare every thing on my side. Neither Mrs. *Lallin* or my sister were let into the secret. I us'd to go frequently either to *St. Cloud* or to *Paris*, without giving them the least notice of it, and would sometimes lie out of the house. The only persons I acquainted with my design, were *Dring*, whom I had made my steward; my coachman and two footmen. I order'd *Dring* to set out privately on horseback before night, upon some pretence or other; and come in the dead of night to Mr. *R——*'s house. As for myself, as soon as it was dusk, I set out towards *Paris*; and only went so far up that road, as was necessary to lead the inhabitants of some neighbouring cottages into a mistake; and after I thought we were in no danger from the spies, I bid my coachman stop in some lone place till the time was almost expir'd, that I had promis'd to be at Mr. *R——*'s house.

My hand is seiz'd with a trembling, now I am going to relate one of the most fatal adventures that ever besel me. I
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don't say fatal with regard to the circumstances which attended upon it, as there was no blood shed; and that the sad accident which follow'd after it, can be re-ferr'd only to the common course of nature, or to certain causes which it is not in the power of man to foresee; but as it prov'd of such dreadful consequence to my honour and my virtue. Nothing but a miracle from heaven, would have sav'd me from the brink of the precipice. 'Twould be to no purpose for me to impute the honour of it to my reason: an intelligent reader will find that I deserv'd to be undone; and that had it not been for a supernatural assistance, the weakness which had led me into this danger, wou'd not have been chang'd into strength, to prevent my ruin from being completed.

THE time of my going to Mr. R——'s being near expir'd, I went towards it, and coming to the alley which stood before it, I found *Dring* waiting for me. We had been there but a very little time, when we perceiv'd, by the light of a little lanthorn, some persons coming very softly out of the house, who came up to us in an instant. These were Mr. R——, his lady and daughter. After a thousand kisses and embraces, they gave her up into my hands, when I promis'd

promis'd they should hear from me, the instant of our arrival in *Roan*, which would not be above two days, because I intended to make all imaginable haste thither. As we were afraid lest some of the servants should perceive us, we took but a very short farewell. I only repeated to Mr. R—— the lord *Clarendon's* goodness and generosity; and with regard to the dangers, which might be met with in the road; I protested that I would venture my own life to spare that of his amiable daughter; and therefore that both him and his lady had reason to be very easy.

AFTER I had said these words we set out. I had taken a small wax taper lighted into the coach. Miss *Cecilia* was silent, and seem'd lost in thought. I at first reproach'd her for it; but notwithstanding the tender sentiments which then inform'd my heart, I for some time discours'd only on common and indifferent subjects. She would every now and then speak a word or two by way of answer. I would not seem to gaze upon her with more than ordinary attention, which however, did not prevent me from sometimes contemplating the sweetness of her fine eyes; on which occasion, whenever my glances met hers, my heart would feel a more than ordinary emotion.

emotion. Immediately I would cast my eyes down, and endeavour to recover my self; however, I was too near her, to repel long the subtle poison which she darted at once, from every part of her, into my heart. The bare sound of her voice melted me in such a manner as is inexpressible. But what emotions must I feel whenever I touch'd her, which the continual jolting of the coach made me do every moment; to breathe the same air, in the small tenement which held us; alas! to see and feel but her only! 'twas not blood which now circulated in my veins, but the fires of love. The hurry which these occasion'd in my spirits, enabled me to carry on our conversation a little longer; but afterwards consuming themselves, if I may be allow'd the figure, by their own heat; they chang'd insensibly into a heavy, melancholy languor, a moment after which I was deeply involv'd in thought. I began to consider, in a quite different manner from what I had hitherto done; that I was conveying a person, whose presence and conversation gave me so much pleasure, to *Roan*, where I was to leave her, and should perhaps never set eyes on her more. I shall then, says I to myself, lose the dear creature, whose presence lulls all my sorrows to rest, and
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whose company is sweeter than any thing in life! All my sorrows will again invade me, for 'tis she only that suppresses 'em. In case I am permitted to love her, is it natural that I should consent to bereave myself of so lovely an object? Good heavens, how will it be possible for me to live without her; what will my life be when she is gone from me? As I made these reflections, which employ'd my whole soul, a sigh would every now and then steal from me. Tho' I myself did not perceive this, it did not escape the notice of miss *Cecilia*, whose heart was as tender as mine. She could not doubt, but herself was the cause of the disorder which she saw me in; and 'twas not till after some struggles, that she prevail'd with herself to tell me, she was sorry to see me so sad and dejected. However, at last inclination got the better, when she broke into the following words: What can it be, sir, that has made you thus melancholy on a sudden; I am not sure so unhappy as to be the cause of it? This question, and the tone of voice with which she spoke, made me turn my head towards her. My eyes met hers; when the soft inquietude which methoughts I read in them, quite over-power'd me. I thereupon took up
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one of her hands, but without knowing what I did, and squeezing it between mine; alas! miss *Cecilia*, says I, what a sad reproach you just now made me? Your presence must for ever create satisfaction, and form my felicity; but,— I'm afraid your absence will be the greatest pain to me! and 'twill be impossible for me to survive it long.

Miss *Cecilia* was young and unexperienc'd. *Cupid*, at that instant, insinuated himself into her bosom as well as mine, and awak'd the most melting, the most delicious sensations. Whence could she have got weapons to defend herself, since neither honour nor reason could furnish me with any; and that I did not so much as seek for any in these? She was overjoy'd to hear me deliver my passion at once in such soft language; and whether it were from a free impulse, or an involuntary emotion; she made such an answer as discover'd the greatest passion, and innocence at the same time. If, says she, you look upon my absence as so great an evil, why will you leave me? When one loves a person, methinks 'tis so sweet to be in their company! But I am not sure of it, says she, looking upon me with bashfulness; for you never told me you did. I must

must here declare my whole weakness; the short answer she gave, made me sensible to something I had never felt before; an emotion, a thousand times more sprightly and delicious, than all the pleasures united, which I had hitherto tasted in love. Now, that I blush to think of it, 'tis in vain for me to enquire what it was in those few words, that could raise such emotions in my breast. Was it their simplicity, which could not but discover the utmost tenderness in a young person, who, at the same time, I knew was inform'd with the greatest good sense? Was it the sound of a charming voice, whose impression mix'd with that which was already diffus'd over all my senses? Or rather, was it not the frame and disposition of my heart, which now felt an extasy of joy, to find another to sympathize with it in so happy a manner; and which triumph'd in some measure, to see such a blessing offer'd it, as it perhaps could not have presum'd to desire?

Be this as it will, I now consulted my heart only, and accordingly address myself to miss *Cecilia*, in the most tender, the most passionate language, which seem'd to give her the utmost pleasure. She soon hinted, that absence would be as insupportable

portable to her, as it could possibly be to me. I told her, that it should be as short as possible; in a word, that I was resolv'd to leave *France* with her father, and cross over into *England*, with her and the rest of the family. She seem'd mightily pleas'd at this resolution. Nevertheless, after considering how long it might be before I could return to her; methoughts it would be impossible for Mr. R—— to settle his affairs in less than two or three months; which both miss *Cecilia* and I should consider as so many ages. However, she propos'd a thing which might prevent our being so long absent from one another. Methinks, says she, you might have spar'd me this journey to *Roan*, had you offer'd my father to take me into your house; and to stay in it till such time as he had completed his affairs. I might have liv'd as privately there, as it will be possible for me to do in *Roan*, and then we would have embark'd together for *England*. Tho' this thought was not new to me; and that I had even reject'd it, when it occur'd to me before our setting out, because I was of opinion, that she would be as soon discover'd at my house as at her father's; it yet appear'd to me in a quite different light, now she herself

herself propos'd it. I revolv'd this thought again in my mind; and tho' I could not persuade myself that she would be safer with me; I yet imagin'd that the little tenement which stood in the midst of my park, would be a very secure asylum. I can't pretend to say that wisdom suggested this reflection; no, 'tis certain that love, and a strong desire of being for ever near my amiable *Cecilia*, inspir'd me on this occasion. These, after having prevail'd so far as to make themselves be heard, were soon powerful enough to force obedience. I told miss *Cecilia* my thought, and it pleas'd her extremely. How unhappy it is, says she, that you did not think of it before! But is it too late yet? what hinders us from going back? my father will be overjoy'd to have me so near him; and then I may see him every day. No persons, but such as you think proper, may know any thing of the affair. She added a great many other particulars which I did not listen to, so much I was delighted with this unexpected overture. I found something so soft, so sweet in this, that I was surpriz'd I had not reflected fully on it before. All the impulses of my heart prompted me to put this in execution at once. Nevertheless,

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when I was about fixing myself in this resolution, I felt myself stopt, as it were, by a kind of fear, the cause of which I could not discover, and 'twas this involv'd me so much in thought. In the mean while our coach went a great speed. Miss *Cecilia* observing that I was fix'd in meditation, took notice, that it would be needless to go any farther, in case what I had propos'd could be put in execution. I did not know what answer to make; and without being able to guess what it was that made me so irresolute, I started some objections to her against my own inclinations. She argued against them; and reflecting in how melancholy a manner she would pass her time in *Roan*, as the persons she was going to were wholly strangers to her; she complain'd, that, not to mention that the love I profess'd to have for her, ought to make her company dear to me; I discover'd but very little affection, in being thus in doubt whether I should grant what she requested of me.

I YIELDED to her desires, or rather to my blind inclination; and thereupon I bid the coachman turn back, and carry us to the private door which belong'd to my park, through which we could easily get to the solitary tenement unperceiv'd. I was over-joy'd

joy'd that we were return'd back; and telling miss *Cecilia* the pleasure that it gave me, she assur'd me that it gave her no less satisfaction. Nevertheless, something whisper'd to me every now and then, that I had taken a wrong step; but I flatter'd myself, in order to sooth the uneasiness this fill'd me with, that it proceeded only from the danger to which miss *Cecilia* would be expos'd; what precautions soever I might take, to keep this matter a secret. I therefore resolv'd not to let any one in the world know where she was except her father; and consequently not to let so much as my sister or niece know any thing of the matter. And the better to impose upon those, who perhaps might hear that I had gone out of my house, the very night that miss *Cecilia* had been carried off, as would be suppos'd; I resolv'd also to send my equipage to *Paris*, as soon as we should alight at the park door, and order the coachman not to return till the next evening. By this means, says I; tho' the world should suspect that I carried you off, yet 'twill never be thought that I have hid you in my house. Having thus laid down my scheme, she approv'd every part of it.

I CANNOT say, whether among my various readers, any of them will be able to guess the secret motives which prompted me to act in this manner; and to discover what I myself was then ignorant of; or at least, what a blind and fatal passion prevented my perceiving. I have since discover'd it; but the confusion it then fill'd me with, lessen'd perhaps the merits of my repentance; but I find myself inclin'd to confess it in this place, out of a kind of justice, which obliges me to look upon this confession as a chastisement. Wisdom, virtue, study, alas! how faintly do you defend against the most shameful attacks, a heart which abandons itself to no other conduct but its own, and which takes no care to curb its desires? My secret view in all the mysterious precautions which I us'd, in order to conceal miss *Cecilia*; that criminal view which, blinded by love, I could not see; was only to secure myself the pleasure of enjoying her company alone; and perhaps to take advantage of her frailty, by making her consent to my guilty wishes. However, I myself was far from discovering this; 'twill even be found, in case this matter is attended to, that prudence ought to have suggested quite different measures, had I laid

laid a snare for miss *Cecilia's* innocence; for what probability was there, that I could be longable to hide such an attempt, not only from my own family, but even from Mr. *R——* and his lady. I was now bringing his daughter just under his eye; but this circumstance only serves to shew, how far the passions are apt to blind a man. My heart had a secret tendency to satisfy all its desires, nevertheless, stop, and terrified as it were, by some little remains of virtue and honour; it would have disown'd this guilty intention, had I enquir'd into the cause of its sensations; and being in this doubtful, this dark disposition of mind, it so happen'd, that I was not capable of taking, either such measures as were conformable to the dictates of wisdom, or such as were of a criminal nature.

Being now got to the park door, I bid the coachman drive away immediately for *Paris*; and as I intended to return home in my own coach, and stop at the gate where I commonly alighted, I bid my coachman, as soon as he was return'd from *Paris*, to wait for me in a lone place, whither I propos'd to walk on foot. I kept none but *Dring* to attend upon me; and bid him to go before to the little ho-

vel in the park, and to get a light. 'Tis certain that had my desires been innocent, I ought to have first taken care, to send Mr. R—— word of our arrival, and that we had chang'd our resolutions. But this did not so much as once occur to me, when I got to the park. 'Twas still very dark. As my servants were set out with the coach, and *Dring* was gone towards the house, I now found myself alone with the dear object of my affections. Nothing could better discover the fondness she had for me, and that she was persuaded I lov'd her tenderly; than the satisfaction she seem'd to taste, now she was walking by my side, and leaning on my arm. I employ'd every passionate expression which love suggests, and she seem'd to listen to me with the greatest pleasure. We were now arriv'd at the little tenement, where *Dring* had prepar'd every thing necessary. Altho' we had not many eatables in this hovel, we nevertheless had sufficient to make a little collation, which was prepar'd in an instant. This, says I to the lovely *Cecilia*, is the asylum you have chosen; were I sovereign of the universe, you should soon be as much mistress of it, as you are now of this little apartment; and you know a place, pointing

ing to my heart, where you enjoy a more absolute sway. To say the truth, I was almost enchanted at seeing her face. The little hurry of the walk, and the adventures of the night, diffus'd so much beauty over her whole person, that I was as much fill'd with admiration as with love. She perceiv'd with great pleasure, the effect which her charms had upon me; and her eyes declar'd she was tender, as much as mine (in their dumb language) told her that she was charming. As the night was very far advanc'd, I thought it would be proper to send back *Dring*, in order that nobody might see him, when he should go out of the park on horseback. As he had come out of the house alone, he might go back to it, and appear in it, tho' I didn't. I bid him be sure to make as if he did not know, whether I were at *Paris* on in *St. Cloud*; and I order'd him to bring to the little hovel, a little after daylight appear'd, whatever might be necessary to miss *Cecilia*. Upon this he withdrew, and left me alone with that amiable creature.

I AGAIN repeat; that I had not thus sent away my servants one after another upon an ill design, which had made me wish to be alone. The reader sees plainly,

that there was some reason for their going away, and that hitherto every thing had been conducted very naturally. Nevertheless, 'tis but too true, that my heart flatter'd itself with some delightful ideas, in proportion as those who were witnesses of all I did, went away. *Dring* was no sooner got out of the room, but I immediately felt the most extraordinary emotions. *Cecilia's* glances meeting mine, made my blood circulate with uncommon rapidity. I cast my eyes downwards, and continued silent for some time, as tho' I had been employ'd in admiring her beautiful hand. But in reality, I was in such confusion; that being under a kind of constraint, and not having strength enough to look up, I did not know how to recover myself, but by rising from table, and taking a few turns up and down the room. Miss *Cecilia* was silent, and seem'd impatient to know, in what manner I would open the conversation. I observ'd, that she sometimes directed her eyes to me, and a moment after cast them downwards. This only heightned my perplexity. My heart seem'd ready to leap from my bosom. I could, with extasy, have thrown myself at her feet, but did not dare to do it; and had scarce power to walk up to her.

HOWEVER,

HOWEVER, fearing she would be uneasy to see me disturb'd in this manner, I at last went and sat down by her. She then turn'd her head to me, and putting on a forc'd smile; ask'd me, in a very tender manner, whether any thing troubled me. I then could not forbear taking up one of her hands hastily. Troubled! says I; Gods! troubled, now I see you, whom I adore; and have the happiness to inform you of it, and the satisfaction of believing that you will listen to me with some pleasure! Could it be possible for me to forget who I am now with, and whose lovely hand I now hold? could I forget all I wish'd for, and all I have obtain'd? for surely, dear *Cecilia*, you cannot refuse me your heart: Is it not already mine? In case I possess it, is there any room for me to be either unhappy or melancholy? I said a thousand things more, with the same warmth and passion; for love had now gain'd an absolute conquest over my reason.

SHE listned to what I said; I read in her countenance that her heart overflow'd with tenderness and joy; and I tasted, in some measure, both her satisfaction and my own. In so tender a moment as this, could she deny me any thing? our

wishes were mutual ; and the suggestions of honour and virtue, were not attended to upon this occasion. I kiss'd her lilly hand a thousand times, and did not find that she once endeavour'd to draw it from me.——But who could believe it? 'twas in the very instant that her innocence and mine were just expiring, as it were, that I perceiv'd the dangerous precipice, from which I was going to throw myself ; and I still cannot say, whether it was for mine, or my *Cecilia's* sake, that it pleas'd heaven to assist me, by the most unexpected of all miracles.

Miss *Cecilia* was tender enough, to go greater lengths than are consistent with modesty : but then, as she had receiv'd a very virtuous education ; and that 'twas impossible, even for love itself, to blot out those impressions in an instant ; she undoubtedly was oblig'd, no less than myself, to impose upon her reason ; in order to calm the remorse which otherwise would cast a damp upon her pleasures. She was sensible, that as we were alone, love might prompt us to go farther than was consistent with duty ; and perhaps she herself at first resolved not to indulge the utmost of our wishes. Nevertheless, some remains of modesty, which wanted
to

to veil itself with some pretence; oblig'd her to draw away her hand suddenly from mine. Heavens! says she, what am I doing? and how is it possible for me to be so weak! will you promise, at least, to marry me? This question, altho' spoke with a tender and languishing air, made me shudder before I had thought what answer to give. I did not say a word; when perceiving the perplexity I was in; Good lord! says she with a deep sigh, can't you determine! My confusion was so great, that not being able either to look upon, or make her the least answer; I again took one of her hands, and endeavour'd to hold it, notwithstanding her struggles to get it from me. She at last forced it away; and finding I did not say a word, tho' she had again put the same question to me, she also continued silent.

WE thus remain'd in the most odd situation that ever was heard of. A thousand thoughts occur'd to my mind in an instant, and with so much confusion, that I knew not what to make of 'em. I did not even dare to lift up my eyes to miss *Cecilia*; and to let her read therein, what it was impossible for me to express in words. The charm which had blinded me, since I had receiv'd her from her fa-

ther's hands, seem'd now to break away. Altho' my passion continued as strong as ever, I yet found my desires die away. Honour and respect began now to re-assume their former empire ; and as this change restor'd my reason, I was seiz'd with the utmost terror, the moment I reflected on what had pass'd between us. 'Twas then, that reflecting much less on the reasons I had to rely on miss *Cecilia's* tenderness, than the dread I was under of her hating me henceforwards ; I ventured to turn my eyes towards her, in order, if possible, to discover how she might be affected. She seem'd to be overwhelm'd with melancholy ; and altho' her eyes were shut, and her head leaning backwards on the chair, I yet fancied I saw some tears steal down her cheeks. This sight struck me to the soul, and in my first emotions I was going to throw myself at her feet. I know not what turn love might have given to my expressions ; but the sad *Cecilia* prevented my words. Alas ! says she, turning her head from me, in order to avoid my glances ; leave me ; I cannot listen to you any longer, for you have deceiv'd me ; I am a vile creature, and ought to die with shame and confusion.——This

2 reproach

reproach stung me to the soul. I swore to her by whatever was sacred, that nothing could exceed the warmth and sincerity of my affections; and wish'd heaven might make an example of me, in case I ever intended to impose upon her. These protestations seem'd to calm her uneasiness, and thereupon she ask'd me, in the most tender tone of voice, why I refus'd to marry her; and whether I had any other design when I declar'd that I lov'd her? She told me, that her father having long observ'd that I had an inclination for her, was persuaded that I would ask his consent to marry; that he firmly expected it, the jesuit having assur'd 'em this over and over; that 'twas this supposition, as much as the persuasion he entertain'd of my honour and integrity, had prompted him to trust her in my hands; that he had order'd her before we set out, to consider me as a man who might one day be her husband, and therefore that I should behave myself in such a manner, as might increase the affection I had for her; that she acknowledged, she had not made a proper use of his advice; that having been so silly as to believe I lov'd her to excess, she had also been so weak as to discover the affection she had for me; and

that she had gone greater lengths than modesty allows, in giving me such evident marks of the tender affection she had for me : but, that after she had heard the jesuit and her father speak so many things to my advantage, and after having so long studied my heart, and perswaded herself that I was a man of the strictest honour ; she never could have thought, that I would ever have look'd upon this indulgence she had shewn me as a crime ; and for having been so simple, as not to disguise her heart. She added, at the same time, letting fall some tears, that tho' she was so young, she yet had too much sense not to see through all my artifices ; and that I must necessarily be the most worthless wretch breathing, if I ever entertain'd any dishonest views when I address'd her.

THIS discourse, which she utter'd with all the grace imaginable ; and what affected me still more, with such an ingenuous air, as plainly discover'd that what she had now spoke, flow'd infinitely more from the greatness of her sense, than from experience and cunning ; this, I say, made such an impression upon me, as words could never describe. Whether it were the dread I was under, of being for
ever

ever excluded the possession of so enchanting a creature ! or the confusion with which I was seiz'd, to consider that I had, in reality, deceiv'd her, by the false idea I had made her entertain concerning my intentions ; whether it were reason or transport, I could not forbear making the only confession, by which it would be possible for me to justify myself. However, I did this by a round about way. Charming miss *Cecilia*, says I, throwing myself at her feet ; heaven is witness, that no man ever lov'd more sincerely than I do. My heart is full of you ; and I love you more dearly than ever man lov'd. Oh ! that it were possible for you to see into the inmost recesses of it ! lovely *Cecilia*, you'd then find that your image is deeply engrav'd in it ! No, no, it cannot deceive you. It adores you. It feels, that the happiness of being yours, is the supreme good : it wou'd make me chuse to be your comfort, rather than to be the greatest monarch upon earth. — She interrupted me ; and interpreting these last words in a manner agreeable to her wishes, she said to me, (holding out her hand with a tender smile, which seem'd to shew that she was already consoled) how cruel you were,

to

to keep me so long in suspense, and not explain your self sooner! This answer confounded me still more; and thereupon I refus'd her my hand, and interrupting her; hate me, says I, look upon me with horror.—Or rather, pity my unhappy fate. Alas! dearest *Cecilia*, 'tis impossible for me ever to be yours; I am married.

THIS declaration threw her into an astonishment, which can be much better felt than describ'd; she seem'd ready to faint away in my arms. She fix'd her eyes upon me for some time, with an air of the wildest distraction; and tho' I consider'd them attentively, I yet cou'd not read her thoughts in them. At last, she recover'd herself, when she burst into a flood of tears, and vented the most moving complaints. She did not once mention me, but seem'd to forget that I was on my knees before her; when her grief being now pointed against her own person, she reproach'd herself bitterly with her imprudent conduct. I am lost, says she, over and over, I am dishonour'd to all intents and purposes. Here her sighs and tears stopp'd her words for a moment, after which she again broke into the most mournful exclamations, that

that she was a wretched creature; wou'd now be the scandal of her family, and the sport of all who knew her.

As I had own'd my marriage to her, inadvertently; and was myself prodigiously troubled, I did not know what to do, in order to calm her distracted imagination. I did not, indeed, think that she would have afflicted herself in this manner; but rather, that she would have pointed all her resentment against me, and not herself. I look'd upon her with an air of so much consternation, as wou'd have sufficiently justify'd me, had she been capable of attending to any thing. However, she still continued to turn her eyes from me, whatever might be the reason of it. But now I had resolution enough to speak, when I protested that her complaints were altogether groundless; and that nothing which had now happen'd ought to give her the least pain, her honour being as uninjur'd as ever. She wou'd not give me time to conclude what I was saying, but rising from her seat on a sudden, she ran from me with a kind of horror, calling me, at the same time, by the most opprobrious names.

THIS sudden transport, plainly shewing that she was highly exasperated, I

was

was afraid she would run out of the room in spite of me ; and that she very likely would be seen by some of my servants, as she was roving about the park, for it was now very near day-break. It would have been a mortal pain to me, had such an affair as this been discover'd ; and it affected my honour no less than it did hers. This reflection made me run to the door, and lock it ; when having done this, I walked up to her, and altho' she endeavour'd to hide her face, I nevertheless took a chair and sat down by her. Her tears were still streaming, and this was succeeded by so deep a silence, that I was afraid something fatal had happen'd to her, after having seen her in these violent agitations. Nevertheless, after I had conjur'd her in the most respectful terms, to allow me a moment's hearing, she, at last, consented to listen to me. I began, by assuring her that her honour was as unblemish'd as ever. I prov'd to her, that we might very easily execute the plan which we had concerted, while we were in the coach. The moment that *Dring* is return'd, we may, says I, acquaint your father with your being here ; and your reputation cannot suffer in the least, after 'tis known that he had con-

sented

sent to your being in my house. Moreover, says I, I don't intend he shall know that I have spent part of the night alone with you. I, at first, did not intend to let my sister and niece know of your being so near them; but I have now chang'd my resolution, and I'll desire 'em to come to us, before I send for your father. In case he should come to see you this morning, he'll find you in their company; and neither he, or any other person, will have the least suspicion of what has pass'd between us here. You, therefore, says I, with a deep sigh, have reason to be easy. Alas! miss *Cecilia*, you ought to be so, for your honour will be no ways expos'd on this occasion. You may likewise depend upon having another advantage here, which you seem to have no less at heart; and that is, the being deliver'd from my presence, which is on a sudden become so odious, that you thought me worthy of the most injurious appellations. Heaven, who knows the rectitude of my soul, is conscious that I did not deserve them: the name indeed, which I justly merit, is, that of the most unhappy wretch breathing; but you have not thought fit to make a distinction between ill-fortune and guilt.

I HELD

I HELD my peace, after having spoke these words with a most sad and mournful tone, and waited to hear what answer she'd make to them; however, she only vented a few sighs. I then observ'd that she open'd her eyes twice or thrice to look at me, but shut them a moment after. Her silence was a thousand times more grievous, than the most injurious expressions cou'd possibly have been. I then gaz'd upon her with so much attention, that my heart was again sensible to its former ardours; and the freedom which my reason had acquir'd a moment before, was immediately destroy'd. Grief and tears, so far from lessening her charms, seem'd, on the contrary, to heighten the lustre of 'em. I seem'd to melt away as I gaz'd upon her; and my passion, which was enflam'd by the several incidents of the night, to a surprizing degree, appear'd now to have broke all limits; and an involuntary transport forced me to cry out, Gods! must I be hated by *Cecilia*? Is it possible that the strongest proof I cou'd give her of my esteem and love, shou'd draw down her hatred upon me? This short exclamation seem'd to make a stronger impression on her, than a long discourse had done. She turn'd about

haftily

hastily towards me ; and whether it were that what she was going to say was premeditated ; or that she had been rous'd, as it were, by the few words abovemention'd which had escaped me ; she deliver'd her self in such terms, as gave me a much higher esteem than I had ever entertain'd, of her humanity and understanding. This, says she, is a very obscure exclamation, which raises my curiosity to a very great degree ; and heightens the confusion I was in with regard to you, the moment that it broke from you. I recollected, sir, your whole conduct, from the time you discover'd a friendship for my father ; and have compar'd it with the circumstances which have happen'd this night. Methinks, I perceive a strange contradiction between your person and your behaviour ; and I wish you cou'd assist me in reconciling them. I won't conceal, says she, with an apparent air of tranquillity, that my resolution is fix'd with regard to you. In case it be true, that you had a design to impose upon my father, by a specious appearance of honour and integrity ; and upon me, by a feign'd sincerity and honour ; I shall consider you not only as a perfidious and most wicked wretch ; but an abominable monster, whom we ought to

to fly from. But in case you are really what we thought you, how will you yet be able to persuade us that you are so, now you confess to me that you are married? when before this, you employ'd the most sacred oaths and protestations, to persuade me of your passion, that is to say, to seduce my innocence, and make me throw up all pretensions to modesty? Alas! I will confess to my shame, that I abandon'd myself to the suggestions of my inclination, and thought myself extremely happy, in being possess'd of such a lover as you. Is it possible for you to be a perfidious wretch? you have, says she, weeping afresh, so tender, so amiable an air. Must I hate you, after you have so long been dear to me! Tell me therefore, what I am to think of you; for I cannot live, in case you intended to impose upon me. I was going to answer her, when she interrupted me by saying, that I must not hope to impose upon her by idle stories; that tho' she had before been so simple, as to flatter herself that she was dear to me, because she then had no reason to doubt of it; she yet desired me to impose upon her hereafter; and that in case I should employ artifice, 'twould only serve to encrease her contempt and hatred.

I WAS

I WAS enchanted when I gaz'd upon her, but was much more so when she spoke. I had not, 'till now, been engag'd in a serious conversation with her, and therefore had not an opportunity of knowing the great depth of her understanding; so that this unhappy incident serv'd only to heighten my despair, as it reveal'd a thousand charms which 'till then I had not seen; and at the same time bereav'd me of the hopes, of even enjoying the innocent pleasure of admiring them, which was the only one I had propos'd to myself at first. I saw but too plainly, that what answer soever I might make to these questions, it would be impossible for me to justify myself to her satisfaction; and on the other side, I was incapable of searching for evasions to impose upon her; and was sensible, that I could never justify myself completely, unless it had been possible for her to read in my heart. She there would have seen, that in case some frailty had escap'd me, I yet was honest in the main; and such, undoubtedly, as she desir'd I should be, in order to recover her esteem. Perhaps she'd have discover'd this, without the circumstance abovemention'd, had she consider'd that I had reveal'd my marriage to her of my own

own accord; and at a time when she might suppose I would not have disclos'd it to her, had I really been so vile a wretch as she imagin'd me to be. I was going to beg her to weigh this reflection, when I found it would be impossible for me to make a more solid defence; but as the words she spoke had affected me prodigiously, and that I had meditated for some time, what answer it would be proper for me to make; she look'd upon my silence as a tacit confession of my guilt, and was persuaded that her reproaches had quite confounded me. Upon this she rose up, when I entreated her to stay; but she frown'd upon me with the utmost indignation, and declar'd, that she would never have any thing to say to me more, nor make my house an asylum; and be assur'd, says she, that I'll go this instant, and acquaint my father what a wretch you are.

THE only reason of my being so circumstantial, is, to shew, by my example, to what fatal excesses the passions may carry us. I was so struck to see her in this passion, that seeing her get to the door, and myself at too great a distance from her to keep her from going out; I drew my sword, in such a transport as is
inexpressible;

inexpressible: and torn to pieces still more from the fear of losing her, than from the shame she threaten'd to bring me to, I cried, I would stab myself to the heart, in case she went away without hearing what I had to say. The melancholy tone with which I spoke these words, made her turn her head, just as she was going to unlock the door; when the posture I was in frighted her to such a degree, that she continued motionless for some moments. Upon this, I threw myself at her feet in the place where I stood, and stretching out my arms to her; cruel *Cecilia*! says I, hear me for a moment; I conjure you to listen to me, and you shall hear the story of the most unhappy man that ever liv'd. I confess my guilt, and don't pretend to justify myself, but am sure you will not deny me your compassion: Hear me but for a moment, for I die in case you refuse to do it.. *Cecilia* was too tender-hearted, not to be touch'd with my earnest entreaties; and after continuing irresolute for a moment, she took her hand from the lock, and sat down on a chair that stood near her. You wanted to frighten me, says she, but I ought never to be so upon your account, since you have employ'd such vile artifices.

fices. But let's hear what mighty matters you have to tell me. Hearing this I drew nearer to her; and love, which had, a moment before, made me furious and stupid, now made me guilty of indiscretion, by prompting me to reveal what I had resolv'd never to discover. Alas! says I, deign only, to hear me, and then see whether I deserve your hatred!

I BEGAN by acquainting her with who I was; when I related part of the sad circumstances of my infant years. I afterwards acquainted her with most of the melancholy particulars which the reader has already heard, 'till I came to the grievous circumstances of my wife's infidelity. Tho' the incidents I related, had been of a less gloomy nature, yet the air and manner in which I describ'd them, could not but in the whole be vastly affecting. She at first listned to me with greater curiosity than emotion; but I observ'd that she seem'd to melt, in proportion as I told my sad tale, and would even every now and then change colour. She would often move about in her chair, as tho' she sought for some new posture, in which she might listen to me with greater satisfaction. I saw by the heaving
of

of her breast, that she breath'd short, and sometimes a sigh would steal from her. This however was nothing, in comparison of what she seem'd to feel, when I told her of my inward agitations; and how strongly I had combated on the side of virtue, or against grief. Her eyes wou'd then be fix'd upon me; the various emotions of her soul were painted on her face, insomuch that she seem'd to suffer all I related. At last I came to the unhappy part of my adventures, which must naturally affect her most. I had not conceal'd from her the excellent qualities which my wife possess'd, nor the excess of passion with which I once lov'd her. Thus I confess'd to her, that I was seiz'd with the sharpest pangs when I lost her, I represented my sorrows in such lively colours, that I saw the tears stream from her eyes; and tho' she endeavour'd to hide them from me, by wiping them as they fell, yet others would immediately gush from her eyes, so that 'twas impossible but I must see 'em. Having concluded; such, says I, is the heart you have accused of artifice and perfidy. I believ'd it was entirely cur'd of love, and become a prey, for ever, to grief. But as it is impossible for it to cease to be up-

right and sincere, neither can it help being tender. I saw you, lovely *Cecilia* ; I drank in love at my eyes ; and was inform'd with a stronger passion than ever I felt before. Your delightful presence banish'd all my sorrows. Delicious passion ! alas ! that alone would have made the remainder of my days happy, for my desires extended no farther. I never lost sight of the invincible obstacle which ought to suppress them, and you yourself are sensible, with how careful an eye I watch'd over 'em for some time ; but is it surprising that they should go a little beyond due bounds, when I was capable of adding to the pleasure of adoring you, that of having a place in your heart ; of learning it from your own mouth, and of receiving a thousand tender assurances of it ? Is not every man, when he is rais'd to such felicity as I tasted, apt to swerve from the dictates of wisdom. Besides, please to recollect whether I have abused your goodness so far, as to deserve the opprobrious names with which you aspersed me ? Did I not at once reveal to you the unhappy ties, which keep me from being yours ? Can you reproach me with misleading you into one single error. No——I have pursued the most rigid laws

laws of virtue and honour: I have put such a constraint upon myself, as merits your compassion and esteem, so far from deserving your hatred.

I HAD spent almost an hour, in relating these several adventures of my life. The agitation I had been in before, and that which I felt, during this long and passionate discourse, almost exhausted my spirits, which miss *Cecilia* took notice of, and discover'd some uneasiness upon that account. This was the first mark she gave, that a change was wrought in her disposition. She advis'd me to take something to chear up my spirits, and I follow'd her advice. I then came up to her again, but with so sad, so desponding an air, that I had not perhaps appear'd more dejected in my greatest misfortunes. Altho' I thought myself infinitely oblig'd to her, for this testimony she gave me of her kind uneasiness, I yet did not dare to look her in the face. I lay trembling and fearful at the feet of a young girl of sixteen, as tho' I had expected from her mouth, the decision of my fate. She had too much penetration not to discover by my air and countenance, that I was vastly uneasy in my mind. Nothing is so easily discover'd as the indications of sincerity,

even without the aid of experience. She was already reconcil'd to me ; and was griev'd to find it would be impossible for us, to be ever join'd in the bonds of marriage: However, she did not tell me this herself, but only assum'd a more smooth and serene air, and began to discourse me with her usual affability. She ask'd me several questions with regard to my wife ; what was the cause of her inconstancy ; whither she was withdrawn to, and if I still had some regard for her? I answer'd these several particulars with the utmost sincerity, and we did not change the subject of our discourse, till the time was come when I had order'd *Dring* to come back again.

HE came, when she herself desir'd him to whisper to my sister and niece, and acquaint them that we were in the park, and waited for them there with the utmost impatience. She had strictly enjoin'd him, not to let a soul in the house besides know any thing of our being in the tenement. You'll come back to us, says she, as soon as you've done this, and then I have something else to desire of you. *Dring* turn'd about to me, in order to know my commands, but finding I did not give him any, he went out immediately,

mediately, in order to execute those of miss *Cecilia*. He might justly be surpriz'd, that I had not once open'd my lips before him. One would have thought, that the several past circumstances, had given miss *Cecilia* some authority over me; and that she assum'd the air of it, as much as I did that of obedience and submission. I was standing up, but she desir'd me to be seated; my hat and sword being on the ground, she bid me take 'em up, in order that my sister might not mistrust any thing. 'Tis true, indeed, that she did not discover the least pride or haughtiness, in thus ordering me to do these several particulars. She deliver'd herself as a person who is certain she is lov'd; who still loves, but is afraid of owning it; but at the same time wishes she may be thought to do so, and is not sorry to have it perceived. With regard to myself, I obey'd as much thro' shame, if I may presume to express myself in this manner, as from love. My being a husband, lessen'd me to so great a degree in my own imagination, that I thought miss *Cecilia* might use me with what contempt she pleased, since she still suffer'd me to be so happy as to enjoy a moment of her company. I could not think any chains which she should think

fit to put on me, too weighty. Such was the excess of my weakness. I was the sport of love, and of my own heart.

My sister and niece being come, they were vastly surpriz'd when they heard the unhappy circumstance, which had oblig'd *Cecilia* to conceal herself for some time in my park. They promis'd to give her their company all day long, and to do whatever lay in their power to divert her. We agreed, that in order to conceal this matter from the servants, my sister and her daughter should pretend to want to take the air of the park sometimes; that they should lie in the hovel, and get a bed carried into it, which was enough, there being one in it already. 'Twould be an easy matter for them to get provisions into it without occasioning the least suspicion. *Dring* and the two servants who were in *Paris* with my equipage, could order that affair very well, without any other assistance; and I myself had so often taken my meals there, that this would not be a new thing. Whatever else could be wanting, might be sent thither with as little difficulty. The only difficulty would be, how to keep this affair from *Mrs. Lallin* for any time; for it would be impossible for my sister not to see her, whenever

whenever she should make her a visit. We therefore concluded, that it would be absolutely necessary to let her into the secret ; and the only difficulty I found in this, was, her being of the *Romish* persuasion ; and consequently that she might scruple to conceal a heretic ; however, I was persuaded she had too much good sense to boggle at this ; and besides, I did not see it was necessary, to inform her of the real cause why miss *Cecilia* was conceal'd. Hereupon we resolv'd to tell her only, that her father had desir'd she might be conceal'd in my house, for fear of her being carried off by a lover. Too much precaution sometimes ruins an affair. An ingenuous confession would have had a better effect upon a woman of Mrs. *Lal-
lin's* character, than evasion and artifice ; this would have engag'd her, in honour, to secrecy ; whereas, not being upon her guard, because nothing of privacy had been enjoin'd her ; she did more harm, thro' imprudence, to miss *Cecilia*, than we could possibly have dreaded, had we acquainted her with the whole affair.

WE sent for her immediately, for fear lest a longer delay should raise some suspicion in her mind. Being come, we inform'd her of no more particulars than

had been agreed upon between us. Miss *Cecilia* afterwards sent *Dring* to acquaint her father that she was nearer him than he imagin'd. We thought proper not to lie down to take a little rest, 'till he came back. But this I wanted more than any one, for all my senses were still in very great disorder. *Dring* came back, and told us, that Mr. R——, according to what was agreed upon between us, gave out that his daughter had been stole, and that he pretended to search for her every where. He added, that he approv'd very much of the change we had made in our design; and that he'd come and return me thanks in person, the very first opportunity, for the friendship I had shewn for him and his daughter. Miss *Cecilia* blush'd when this part of the story came to be related, and I was more disconcerted than she. By good fortune, I had retir'd to one end of the room with her, in order to hear the answer which *Dring* brought. But foreseeing that hereafter I should seldom have the happiness to discourse her in private, her blushes seem'd to raise my courage, and I spoke to her with greater boldness than I did an hour before. Without once mentioning the word *love*, I conjur'd her to remember that 'twas in her

her power to make me either happy or miserable, and that death would be less grievous to me than her hate. The tone with which I spoke these words, was as melancholy as my air and countenance. Miss *Cecilia* look'd upon me for some moments without making me any answer, as tho' she had been in doubt whether she should indulge me this favour. Nevertheless, I observ'd her eyes to look milder on a sudden, and was surpriz'd to see her stoop her head towards me, and say ; poor, unfortunate man ! I really pity you !——She then, after pausing a moment, said ; I'll tell you however ; in case you really love me, you may still be happy. Saying these words, she left me and went to the ladies.

I WAS not calm and unruffled enough to appear before them ; for my anguish would have appear'd in my countenance, and I wanted to conceal it from every one. Upon this I went out of the room, as though I withdrew purposely to give her an opportunity of taking a little rest ; and being unwilling to be seen by any of my servants, since my sister and Mrs. *Lallin* knew of my return, I struck into the park, with a design of indulging myself in reflection. Those which

first occur'd, did not relate, as they had hitherto done, to the diseases of my heart, or the disorder of my reason. Altho' I could not but be sensible of the gloomy situation of my mind, I nevertheless strove to sooth it as much as possible. I even banish'd such ideas from it with a kind of fear. Remorse and shame seem'd to wind themselves round me, as tho' they sought to enter my soul; and I, on the other side, seem'd to struggle perpetually to keep them back. What shall I say? I now fondled, as it were, my evils; and was grown so blind, that the remedy was more obnoxious to me than the poison.

WHAT therefore now employ'd my whole soul, was, the obscure meaning of the last words which miss *Cecilia* spoke to me; and the tender marks of her compassion, which she bestow'd upon me as she went away. I endeavour'd to dive into the meaning of those words, but could not. I did not doubt but she still had some affection for me; nay, I was sure she had, for love is hardly ever deceiv'd. But after what had past the night before, I did not find the least room to hope for the happiness with which she had endeavour'd to inspire me: if you
I love

love me, you may still be happy : these were her words ! alas ! love her, how faint is that expression ! I rather adore her. But in case it appear'd manifest to us both, that neither of us ought to procure happiness, at the expence of virtue and honour ; how will it be possible for her to reconcile these jarring particulars ? surely no way can be found ; and therefore to hope it would be a mere illusion. In case I have any happiness to expect from her, it can be that only of seeing and loving her. Let this be the limits. I did not propose any other. Alas ! says I, I ought indeed not to exceed those bounds ; but do I now keep within them ? and if I have already gone too far beyond them, will it now be an easy matter for me to return back to them ?——This unhappy night had, indeed, wrought a surprising change in my mind. The body must certainly have an accountable power over the soul. From the moment that I had touch'd miss *Cecilia's* hands ; had been alone with her ; had intoxicated my self, as it were, with her breath ; and that her glances had shot into my heart ; I felt a strange uneasiness whenever I was absent from her. Methoughts something whisper'd to me every moment, that a

most essential part of myself was wanting. I was carried, as it were, towards her, by something stronger than all the emotions of sympathy, and as powerful as enchantment. The bare sight of her, therefore, sooth'd my passion, but in a very faint manner : to make me happy, it was necessary that I should possess her, whom I look'd upon as my only treasure. This I cou'dn't now expect ; and consequently love, which I flatter'd myself would form my felicity, cou'd henceforwards only make me wretched.

AFTER these useless reflections I took a few hours sleep. In the evening I went to *St. Cloud*, in order to wish her highness a good journey, who was to set out the next day with the king and the whole court. His majesty pretended to undertake this journey, merely to take a view of the frontier cities of *Flanders* ; but 'twas whisper'd, that a deeper design was conceal'd under this ; and that a resolution had been already taken, to make war against *Holland*. 'Twas of great importance to *France*, to get *Great-Britain* on it's side ; or at least that it should be neuter, whilst the *French* army was engag'd against the *Dutch*. Asking *Charles II.* had a very great affection for her highness, she consequently

consequently was capable of being highly serviceable on this occasion; and 'twas known a little after, that this was the sole reason why *Lewis XIV.* insisted so much upon her accompanying him to *Flanders*. She had even promis'd king *Lewis*, that she would go over into *England*, purposely to confer with her royal brother upon that account. Without explaining the project that was upon the anvil, she hinted to me, that she wish'd king *Lewis* wou'd give her leave to cross over into *England*, and believ'd he would indulge her desires in that particular. Her highness asked me after this, whether I was willing to accompany her in the voyage? This question perplex'd me a little. I could have wish'd to go for the sake of my children, as it could be scarce possible for me to meet with a more favourable opportunity, to remove all the difficulties which might arise, with regard to the estate that was to devolve on my children: but then the reader may guess the reason, why I had a strong inclination not to leave *France*. Accordingly I made a few random excuses to her highness, which she was so good as to allow of.

AFTER I was come from the dutchess, I paid a visit to Mr. R——, whom I found

found at home ; but was very sorry to find the jesuit, who was come to console Mr. R——, upon hearing that his daughter had been run away with. This zealous comforter, who was sensible that I had some affection for miss *Cecilia*, whisper'd me in the ear, and said, that he did not doubt but I was as much troubled as her father could be ; and that he intended to do me the same office, as he was then indulging that gentleman. Hearing him say this, I begg'd him to delay this, at least, 'till another day. However, he was so far from being discourag'd, at my delivering these words with so cold an air ; that he answer'd, he was come from *Paris* purposely to spend the night at my house ; and that he had persuaded himself I would not refuse him that favour. His persisting in this manner, made me very angry : for as I had no manner of inclination to murder half the night in discoursing with him ; and intending to go and visit miss *Cecilia* and her two companions, in their apartment in the park ; I gave him to understand, by proper innuendo's, that his visit would not be at all grateful to me that day. This jesuit was, like most of his brethren, a very subtle fellow ; so that I don't doubt but he

he partly guess'd the reasons why I refus'd to receive him ; and that this made him machinate a most detestable project, which prov'd poor *Cecilia's* ruin. Nevertheless he affected to treat me with the utmost civility and complaisance. — I then took my leave, and left him at Mr. R——'s, whom I told privately, in what manner I had dispos'd of his daughter, and the great care I had taken to prevent people from knowing where she was.





THE
L I F E
O F
Mr. CLEVELAND,
NATURAL SON
O F
Oliver Cromwell.

BOOK VII.

I SPENT some weeks in the uneasy situation of mind, which I just now represented. I us'd to see miss *Cecilia* several times a day, or rather I was incessantly with her, but then there was always somebody with

with us; for her three companions never suffer'd her to be alone, and her father and mother came so often to see her, that she very seldom had a minute to herself. Tho' the opportunity I had of seeing and conversing with her, prevented me from being engag'd in other affairs; because it would have been impossible for me to deprive myself voluntarily of her presence; I yet was not more easy upon that account. My blind desires still continued to exercise their tyranny over my heart and all my senses; and her presence must naturally heighten my wishes. I was perpetually thinking on the mysterious words by which she had endeavour'd to comfort me; and I waited, with an impatient submission, for the time when she should please to let me into their meaning. I did not dare to gratify my curiosity in this particular; besides, I could not have found an opportunity to do this, as we were never together alone; and then I did not presume to communicate my thoughts in writing for fear of displeasing her. There was but one reflection only, which was sometimes capable of soothing my anguish. I consider'd that as she discover'd so much complaisance and good nature to me upon all occasions;

casions, I consequently must still have some share in her affection. Now, would I say to myself, in case she loves me, I consequently must be present to her mind; she must still pity me, and wish me happy; and in case it depends on her to make me so, she'll do all that lies in her power to create it. I therefore must leave the care of this to her, and must wait till she acquaints me how it can be obtain'd. This, certainly, was not a just way of arguing, and was the effect of fear rather than of love; for I ought to have consider'd, that a young lady of *Cecilia's* good sense, had indulg'd me a very great favour, in permitting me to entertain the least hopes, after knowing that I was married. But to confess the truth, which possibly may recover me the esteem of my readers, some remains of honour and virtue were added to my fears. Uncertain with regard to the meaning of the offers which *Cecilia* had made me; and not being able to explain them, with the least shadow of reason, I trembled when it occur'd to me, that they, perhaps, might not be agreeable to the dictates of modesty. The experience I had during the first night, had taught me both her weakness and my
own;

own ; for altho' she had come off victorious in that dangerous kind of combat ; 'tis nevertheless certain, that her virtue had been put to the greatest trial. It might be again expos'd to the like danger ; possibly I myself might wish it to be so ; but this desire was a monster that did not dare to appear ; which conceal'd itself in the most retir'd recesses of my heart ; and which my reason would have been able to stifle, had it spoke loud enough to make itself be heard. From these several reflections it may be concluded, that I was not altogether criminal, but vastly unhappy. However, I was upon the point of being infinitely more so. The reader may prepare himself to hear a new scene of misfortunes.

CECILIA, in giving me the obscure hopes which had thrown me into such perplexity, had advanc'd nothing but what she thought it in her power to perform. But she wanted my assistance for this purpose, and was surpriz'd to see me so backward in offering it, after she had explain'd herself so far. In the time, therefore, when fearfulness or duty forc'd me to silence ; she wish'd for nothing so earnestly, as to hear me ask from her, what

what she was so desirous of speaking to me about. She would even have doubted the constancy of my affection, finding me thus cold, as it were, had not my uninterrupted assiduity, and the passionate air with which I always approach'd her, been a strong indication of my love.

DURING this, I had receiv'd frequent visits from the jesuit, who was ever talking of miss *Cecilia*, and expressing the greatest sorrow whenever he mention'd her suppos'd flight. He even affected to be persuaded of the truth of it; and thereupon endeavour'd to comfort me with a very serious air, as tho' he believ'd me to be deeply afflicted. But besides the conjectures he had form'd at Mr. *R——*'s; so artful a man as he was, cou'd easily discover by my answers, that I wasn't so much affected with the loss of my mistress, as was natural for one so fond as myself to be. He therefore was more strongly confirm'd in the thought he at first entertain'd, viz. that this elopement was only an artifice to impose upon the world; and to conceal something, the mystery whereof he cou'dn't yet dive into. As his curiosity and over-active zeal, prompted him whenever he was at my house, to observe whatever past in it; he

he soon discover'd that there was some change in the methods and oeconomy of it. Altho' he always heard at his coming, that I was in my solitude in the park, I yet did not receive him in it as I had always done before; for now I had order'd that word shou'd be brought to me of his being come, when I used to go and wait upon him in the great house. The ladies, particularly my sister and niece, who were always with miss *Cecilia*, never appear'd before him; so that he never saw any other woman but Mrs. *Lallin*, and she too always in the evening, when she return'd out of the park; so that in most of his visits, he seldom saw any other person but me. This change, which perhaps was not brought about with sufficient caution, rais'd his suspicions to a very great height. He didn't doubt but I was concern'd in miss *Cecilia*'s elopement; but was perswaded that she was in my house, and that something vastly mysterious was conceal'd under this intrigue.

ALL that now remain'd for him to do, was to find it out. Possibly he at first guess'd the real affair; but as he did not dare to try any methods, the success whereof he was not sure of, he employ'd such an one as was infallible. Mrs.

Lallin

Lallin had made choice of him for her confessor; and he thought she could inform him of all he desir'd to know. And indeed, after having employ'd the greatest artifice, by giving her to understand that he wanted to discourse her upon an affair in which the salvation of her soul was concern'd; he ask'd her whether miss *Cecilia* was not conceal'd in my house; and whether I and the rest were not acting a religio-comical farce? Mrs. *Lallin*, who imagin'd it would be a crime to conceal the truth from her father confessor, was prodigiously puzzled. I since heard, from her own mouth, that finding she was in doubt with regard to the answer she should make, he answer'd all her scruples by the following *dilemma*. The thing, says he, you are afraid of revealing to me, either is lawful, and consequently allow'd of by the principles of our most holy religion, or it is not so. In case it is not allowable, you cannot conceal it from me without committing a deadly sin; and in case it be lawful, you may secure your peace of mind, by opening your self to your confessor; and 'tis plain you can run no risque in this, since it will infallibly be veil'd under the secrecy of confession. Hearing him say
this,

this, she answer'd all the questions he put to her. Altho' Mrs. *Lallin* didn't know the real cause why miss *Cecilia* was conceal'd in my house; he yet guess'd the real cause of it, when she told him so unlikely a tale, viz. that her father had her remov'd to my house, for fear that a person who had stole her away should carry her off. He was too well acquainted with whatever related to the family, not to know that miss *Cecilia* had been brought up in so recluse a manner that I must necessarily be her only lover. But he with reason suppos'd, that the *carrying off* which her father dreaded so much, was the king's order for her being confin'd in a convent. This he was more strongly perswaded of, when after having ask'd Mrs. *Lallin* a great number of questions, he at last made her confess, that I intended to return to *England* very soon; and hearing this, he no longer doubted but he had discover'd the whole mystery of the affair; and in all probability argued thus—Miss *Cecilia* is conceal'd in *Cleveland's* house; and this can be done upon no other account, than that she may thereby have an easy opportunity of quitting the kingdom,—*Cleveland* also designs to leave it; that is, he intends
to

to convey her to *England*.——They have defer'd their departure for some time ; this is done, in order that Mr. R—— may have time to dispose of his effects, after which they'll all set out together. ——No conjectures could possibly appear more just. But then, the jesuit's penetration will not be so surprizing, when the reader is told, that at this time, there were many examples of the same kind every day ; multitudes of protestant families flying their country continually, in order to avoid the persecution with which they were threatned.

As the jesuit had already meditated a project, highly worthy his zeal, from the ideas which my coldness suggested, and the confusion he saw me in, when we met at Mr. R——'s ; the particulars which Mrs. *Lallin* acquainted him with, made him act upon a new motive. Possibly he might have entertain'd some affection for me till that time ; but he since was so offended at my conduct, that he afterwards breath'd no other sensations than those of hatred and revenge ; for I cannot ascribe to any other cause, the extremes to which he immediately carried matters. Mr. R—— always listned to his instructions with so much seeming earnestness,

earnestness, that he did not doubt but he should at last make a convert of him; and was persuaded that he shou'd have much less trouble with his daughter. As he had done me very great service, he fancied this would make me the more willing to attend to him; and that he should thereby have, one time or other, an opportunity of bringing me over to the *Romish* persuasion. Three conquests of this importance, would have sooth'd his vanity prodigiously; for nothing was at that time more in fashion among ecclesiasticks, than charity and zeal for the conversion of their *wandering brethren*, as they then call'd the protestants. So that, as he accus'd none but me of robbing him of his hopes, and the fruit of his labour, since I had advis'd Mr. R— to go to *England* with his family; he resolv'd to make me know, that he was not to be impos'd upon with impunity. He, however, had too much cunning, to acquaint Mrs. *Lal- lin* with his design; but at his taking leave of me, he waited upon the archbishop of *Paris*, whom the king had empower'd to act with an almost absolute authority, in all ecclesiastical matters. There he drew me in the most odious colours; represented me as an emissary of the church

of *England*; who was come into *France*, upon no other account but to serve the protestants, and favour their flight into *England*. The archbishop, whose name was Mr. *de Peresie*, had too much good sense to yield blindly to the impulse of the jesuit's zeal. However, he thought this too important an affair to be neglected; and thereupon he caus'd strict enquiry to be made into my character, and the motives which kept me in *France*. Some of my neighbours inform'd his lordship, that I, indeed, did not profess any religion, but led an easy and irreproachable life; and that the dutchess of *Orleans* seem'd to have a very great esteem for me. This testimony made him suspend his resolutions, till his majesty's and her royal highness's return. His lordship only set several ecclesiastical spies of *St. Cloud* over me; whom he order'd to inform him of whatever they could hear with regard to my conduct.

NOTWITHSTANDING this, the jesuit still continued to visit me regularly; and in his conversation with Mrs. *Lallin*, he gather'd whatever might assist the vengeance he meditated. He had carried matters so far, as to advise the archbishop to confine me in the *Bastile*, and to shut
 miss

miss *Cecilia* in a convent. He had even hinted to that prelate, that besides the evil I should be prevented from doing by their throwing me into prison; this would perhaps be an excellent method to procure my conversion: because, as I was vastly fond of miss *Cecilia*, I then should be prompted from a double motive, to embrace the *Romish* religion; viz. the strong desire I should have to get my liberty, and the impatience of seeing a woman I ador'd. As he fancied he had gain'd so strong an ascendant over Mrs. *Lallin*, as to make her enter into his views, when they should be cloak'd under the specious appearances of religion, he communicated this last project to her. However, policy and artifice were the chief motives which prompted him thus to confide in Mrs. *Lallin*. The archbishop had declar'd, that he would not touch me, 'till his majesty and the dutchess were return'd. The jesuit was afraid of my slipping away to *England*; and his design, in thus opening himself to Mrs. *Lallin*, was, in order to engage her to give him notice of my departure. Tho' he had disguis'd his intentions in the most artful manner, he yet did not succeed according to his wishes; for his

uncommon zeal raised the suspicions of his confidant ; for Mrs. *Lallin* trembled when he mention'd the *Bastile* and a nunnery ; and her affection for me, prevailing over every consideration, she one day came and told me all that had pass'd between the confessor and herself.

THE reader may imagine that this fill'd me with the highest astonishment. You have ruin'd us, madam, says I, by your indiscretion. Had you forgot what treatment we met with in *Angers* and *Saumur* ? We are in a hundred times more danger in *Paris*. The dutchess is absent, and I have now no protector. These reproaches brought tears into Mrs. *Lallin's* eyes, but this was a useless remedy. I then desir'd her to repeat, even the minutest circumstances, of whatever she had heard ; but these only fill'd me with the highest dread. I thereupon resolv'd to send word to Mr. R——, that I wanted to speak with him immediately, about business of the highest consequence. He came to me forthwith, when we discours'd a long time, on the danger to which his family and I were expos'd. Had it been, says he, any other time but this, I would have advis'd you not to value the jesuit's machinations ;

for

for his majesty is so just a prince, that he would not suffer a foreigner to be ill us'd; but I must confess to you, that as matters now stand, I don't see but you are in as much danger as myself. I am more griev'd, says he, upon your account than my own; for 'tis plain, that your friendship for me, and the love you have for my daughter, have brought this calamity upon you. Upon what pretence could the government seize you, but for concealing my daughter, and intending to procure our escape into *England*? 'Tis this circumstance gives me pain, and I would with pleasure give half my blood, to atone for the injury I have done you. This generous man was so affected as he spoke, that the tears trickled down his cheeks. I begg'd him to believe, that so far from repenting what I had done for his daughter; I should be very glad to do him service, tho' what I held dearest in the world, was to be the purchase of it. I cannot say whether it were the affecting tone of voice with which I spoke, or bare friendship, which prompted him to explain himself farther; but after having mus'd a moment; let us quite unbosom ourselves, says he: You love *Cecilia*; she's my only child; you are sen-

sible that she'll be a good fortune; I therefore would advise you to marry her. This is the only means by which you can ward off the danger with which we are threatned; you cannot be punish'd for an giving an asylum to a woman, whom you intended to make your wife.

HEARING these words I embraced him with transport, but hadn't power to once open my lips. He seem'd to be vastly surpriz'd at my silence, when I cry'd out: Dearest friend! if you know that I love *Cecilia*, how can I have the face to tell you that I'm married?—So unexpected a declaration, disconcerted him prodigiously. I suppose that he had hitherto depended upon my marrying his daughter; and that this only had prompted him to entrust her with me. I recollected that she herself had told me so. But now all my love and my misfortune tortur'd my soul in the same instant; so I cou'd not suppress a thousand passionate and melancholy complaints, which then broke from me. Mr. R—— saw but too plainly, that there was something very extraordinary in this adventure. What idea soever he till then had entertain'd of my prudence and honour, he now, in all probability, suspected the sincerity of my passion; and
being

being afraid lest his daughter's virtue should be in danger, whom he knew had a great affection for me, he left me after we had exchang'd a few more words. We were then in one of the walks in the park, when he walk'd towards the hovel in it. I now continu'd alone, deeply involv'd in thought. As we had always been very familiar, I didn't even go after him; because he told me at his going away, that he intended to lie in my house that night.

ABOUT a quarter after I saw him coming back. The only reason why he went away so suddenly, was his uneasiness for his daughter. He went to her, in order to know from her own mouth, how matters stood between us; and to inform her, that as I was married, it would be criminal in her to receive my addresses. What he then heard fill'd him with the highest joy, which I saw plainly in his face as he approach'd me. He came up, and taking me in his arms, I won't, says he, conceal from you, that I was very uneasy when I left you. You have a wife; this you told me indirectly; I knew that you lov'd my daughter, and that she return'd your passion; possibly paternal tenderness prevail'd a moment over friendship. But why didn't you

let me into this secret as well as *Cecilia*? I then would have told you at once, that your misfortune may be remedied. I am even surpriz'd that you are ignorant of what is generally practis'd on these occasions: and my daughter, who is not a child, has seen an example of it in our family. She told me, that she herself offer'd to inform you of it, and therefore was surpriz'd that you didn't enquire farther. I answer'd between joy and fear, that so far from receiving with coldness, some obscure words which miss *Cecilia* had dropt; they, on the contrary, had fill'd me with the highest uneasiness, and I was perpetually reflecting on them; but that as I had never been so fortunate as to guess their meaning, despair had fill'd me with fear, and prevented me from desiring her to explain them.— This, says Mr. R——, I'll do myself; but then it must be upon a double supposition; first, that you really wish to marry my daughter; and secondly, that your wife's infidelity, and her going away with another man, can be well prov'd. In this case, says he, it will be an easy matter to procure a divorce, and consequently be at liberty to marry again. The very same thing happen'd to my brother,
and

and 'twas this *Cecilia* thought on, when she hinted a remedy. 'Tis true indeed, that neither the *Roman* laws or those of *France* allow of marrying a second wife, after a man has been divorc'd from his first; but our laws are different. All you have to do is, to address your self to the consistory of *Charenton*. Besides, being an *Englishman*, you therefore are not the king of *France's* subject; and in case this shou'dn't succeed, you may easily obtain a divorce in *England*, where that custom prevails very much. He added, that the only difficulty wou'd be, to get certain proofs of my wife's infidelity.

HERE, I want a new set of expressions, in order to describe one of the most odd situations that ever the heart of man was in. I am now going to relate an unparallel'd incident, which will fully persuade my readers, that no man ever had a turn of mind like me. Can it be imagin'd, that loving miss *Cecilia* so dearly as I did; after the strongest wishes I had form'd to have her mine; and the deep pangs I felt when I thought it was impossible for her to be so; that I yet was capable of receiving this overture of Mr. R—— any otherwise than with the utmost acknowledgment, and the

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highest

highest transports of joy? What was there wanting to my heart, when every thing had been offer'd that cou'd possibly make it happy? Hadn't I craz'd my wife from my remembrance? Didn't I hate her? Was not she a perfidious creature, who had brought me to shame, and fill'd me with sorrow; and therefore deserv'd nothing from me but hatred and contempt? However, the instant I understood what Mr. R—— was going to propose, I trembled in every limb. Every time I heard him utter the word *divorce*, I thought he tore my heart to pieces. 'Twas a bare sensation, abstracted from any idea, and I was struck dumb after he had spoke.

He then ask'd me what I thought of his proposal. This question drew me out of my lethargy, when I took his hand and squeez'd it, but without uttering a word. He imagin'd that this silence was the effect of my joy; and therefore continued to explain in what manner all difficulties might be remov'd. I had time to make several reflections as he was speaking. I admir'd what I had just before felt; but what impression it might still have left upon me, I endeavour'd to banish it entirely from my heart, by recollecting

collecting the just abhorrence I ought to have of my wife's conduct. And then, I needed only but to paint miss *Cecilia's* charms in my fancy, and the delightful image immediately fill'd all my soul. Thither I directed all my attention. Mr. R—— having repeated, that the greatest difficulty would be, to get proofs of her incontinence; he ask'd me if I knew what was become of my faithless wife, and what I knew of her guilt? I answer'd, that she was retir'd to *Chaillot* under the dutchess's protection; and that my whole family were ready to attest, that she ran away with her gallant. 'Tis a happy circumstance, says he, that she is so near us. You yourself must propose to her the separation; there's no doubt but she'll consent to it at once, and by that means matters will be sooner concluded. This last proposal fill'd me with the highest uneasiness; and thereupon I desir'd Mr. R—— to do whatever he thought necessary, assuring him, (which indeed was not true) that I myself was wholly ignorant of the laws and the ordinary forms of justice.

I URGED him to return to our rural habitation in the park, which I was not so much prompted to from the necessity

I was under of reposing myself, tho' I made this the excuse; as from my unwillingness to hear a discourse, every word of which increas'd my pain. I rely, my good friend, says I, on you; and therefore would have you act as you shall think proper. I thus endeavour'd to check, by vague and random ideas, the birth of a thousand afflicting reflections, which seem'd ready to start up in my soul. I ran with the utmost haste into the room where miss *Cecilia* was, and seated myself by her. I sigh'd as I sat down, as though I had just escap'd some imminent danger; and was then just beginning to breathe, in a place where all my fears were to cease. And indeed, her presence restor'd joy to my heart, and her countenance discover'd that she herself was easy. She did not doubt, when she saw me return with her father, but that I had at last been inform'd, of what she so eagerly wish'd I shou'd know. She imagin'd my mind was easy, and her's was completely so. Possibly 'twas the same reason had prompted me, so contrary to my usual custom, to go and seat myself by her in so free a manner.

MR. R—— supposing that Mrs. *Lal-*
lin and my sister were let into all our se-
 crets,

crets, resum'd the discourse we had held in the park. After having declar'd to his daughter before them, that I had a very great affection for her, and intended to sue for a divorce, and afterwards to marry her ; he again began to speak of the methods how it might be best brought about. I now listned to him with much less distraction than I had done before. He then offer'd to go to *Cbaillot* ; and to desire my wife to consent to our divorce. I approv'd every thing he said, and thereupon he prepar'd to set out immediately. Mrs. *Lallin* and my sister were prodigiously surpriz'd at so unexpected an adventure. I observ'd that they gaz'd upon me with astonishment. They had, perhaps, perceiv'd, that I had a passion for miss *Cecilia* ; but they never could have thought that it would have increas'd to such a degree, or have produced such an effect as they had just heard it had done. Nevertheless, they seem'd vastly delighted upon that account, because they were perswaded I was now at ease, a circumstance they 'till now despair'd of ; and thereupon lavish'd their careesses upon miss *Cecilia*, whom they suppos'd had wholly produced this happy change. We spent the afternoon very agreeably,
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'till Mr. R——'s return; and I was so overjoy'd at my being with miss *Cecilia*, that I thought but very little on the business her father was gone about. He came back, and discover'd the greatest joy and satisfaction in his countenance; and I myself continued in the highest transports for some moments.

EVERY one was mighty eager to know what success he had met with, especially Mrs. *Lallin* and my sister, who did not know, 'till then, that my wife was so near us, and that I knew the place of her abode. He then told us all that had past between my wife and himself. He at first had enquir'd for her at the convent-gate, by the name of Mrs. *Cleveland*, which I told him was mine, just as he set out for *Chailot*. Mr. R—— was answer'd that there was no person of that name there. And indeed my wife had changed hers, in order to prevent her being known; it happen'd by a very odd turn of chance, that the new name she had taken, was almost the same with mine, which was *Kingby* and hers *Ringsby*. Mr. R—— found it a very difficult matter to point out the person he wanted, there being a great number of boarders in that house; and would have come to no purpose, hadn't

hadn't he ask'd for an *English* lady, whom the dutchess had recommended to that convent. By this means she was known; but when word was brought her, that a person at the gate desired to speak with her, she had sent word, that she didn't receive any visits; so that Mr. R—— was oblig'd to declare several times, that he came upon business of the greatest consequence, and therefore he must see her.

ALTHO' there was not any thing very affecting in this preamble, I yet cou'dn't hear it without being mov'd. Possibly I might have been less so, had Mr. R—— come at once to the chief end of his commission. But now a look I cast upon miss *Cecilia* recover'd me, and I continued to listen.——At last, says Mr. R——, your spouse was prevail'd on to come: I then was brought into a closet, and a moment after I saw her appear at the grate. She was dress'd in deep mourning; and appear'd with so sweet, so modest an air, that I cou'd not help making a reflection, on the treachery and injustice of nature; who frequently conceals a vicious soul, under the most specious appearances of virtue.——Mrs. *Cleveland* ask'd me with a fearful tone of voice, what I wanted with her. I answer'd,

swer'd, that I came from you, which immediately brought a colour into her cheeks. Observing this I gave her time to recover herself, when I deliver'd my message in the civilest terms I possibly cou'd. Hearing this she turn'd her eyes towards heaven; afterwards kept them shut for some time; then sigh'd and burst into tears; and at last, after I began to be uneasy at her silence, she ask'd me whether I knew the woman you intended to marry. I answer'd that I did. So do I, sir, says she, the tears streaming afresh down her cheeks; so do I. Tell therefore Mr. *Cleveland*, that I wish he may live more happily with her, than he has done with me: Tell him, that I shall beg this earnestly of heaven. And since my consent only is wanting to make him happy, assure him that he has it; and only remind him, that I never in my life oppos'd his happiness.—I answer'd, continued Mr. R——, that you would undoubtedly be highly pleas'd to hear she was so pliable; and that knowing your good nature, I didn't scruple to assure her in your name, that you forgave her all that was past. She then was going to leave me; but I told her, you desired she would give her consent in writing. This she did not scruple to do; and calling

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ing for pen, ink and paper, she writ whatever I thought fit to dictate. Here, says he, is the instrument sign'd by her.

—After she had done, I took my leave of her in a very polite manner, without saying a word more.

I took the instrument into my hand, which trembled at the same time. I yet cou'd not tell what it was that agitated me in this manner, I being almost depriv'd of my reason, and could hardly either see or hear. I then turn'd my eyes towards miss *Cecilia*, I perceiv'd her; but, as tho' my heart was oppress'd on a sudden, I did not feel the secret charm, which the least glance from her eyes used to awake in my heart. A rock would not have felt so heavy on my bosom, as the dead weight with which it seem'd to be then loaded. I could not fetch my breath;—I don't know, says I turning about to my sister, what's the matter with me, I am ready to faint away. Immediately they ran to fetch something, and miss *Cecilia* was preparing to give it me; when taking up her hand eagerly, I applied it to my lips, and cry'd with a deep sigh, alas! dear *Fanny*!—I undoubtedly intended to say, dear *Cecilia*! but my imagination was so disturb'd, that
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it represented every thing in a confus'd manner. I continued in a kind of distraction for some time, but by the care of those about me, I at last recover'd from it.

THE whole company continued silent, and seem'd to look upon me with astonishment, especially Mr. R——. I was vastly so myself, when being recover'd, I recollected what had just before happen'd. I fancied myself just come out of a dream; and reflecting a moment more on what it was that could possibly occasion so great a change in me; I was forced to own to myself, that I did not yet know my own heart. Tho' I was recover'd from the kind of swoon into which I was fallen, nevertheless, I still felt a great weight at my stomach. I struggled with myself when I consider'd the ill effects this accident might produce. Mr. R—— continued to look stedfastly at me, but without speaking a word; nor was miss Cecilia less surpriz'd. At last, words forced their way from me, when delivering myself with my usual freedom, I vented a deep sigh. Alas! says I; I am as much surpriz'd at what has just now happen'd to me, as you can possibly be. I lov'd my faithless partner with such a passion

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as is beyond the power of words. What you have now seen in me, must owe its birth to some dying remains of affection which I still entertain for her. But dear friend, and lovely *Cecilia*, says I, directing myself to both father and daughter at the same time; this will give you but a more favourable idea of my heart, which, sure, is the most tender that ever man was inform'd with. You both know the great ascendant you have over it. You perceive in what manner I hate; judge from thence how strong my love must be!

They receiv'd my excuses in the kindest manner, and I did not perceive that their affection was lessen'd. I likewise assum'd my usual behaviour, and fell to caressing miss *Cecilia*, when her lovely eyes awak'd all my tendernefs. I then read the instrument my wife had sign'd, before her. Tho' the sight of her name written by herself, occasion'd a surprizing revolution in all my faculties, I yet had the power to prevent any notice being taken of it. We then thought of proper methods for compleating what was then began. Mr. R—— undertook to present a petition from me to the consistory. He told me, that if we met with no more difficulty,
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than his brother had done in an affair of the same nature, he didn't doubt but I should be his son-in-law, in less than a fortnight; and we resolv'd, that in case we should meet with any obstacle from the consistory, we then would go for *England* forthwith. One thing we were afraid of, viz. that the jesuit would set every engine at work to prevent our escape; but this we were forced to run the hazard of. 'Tis impossible for a whole family to leave a kingdom in one night, and carry off all their effects. 'Twas enough, in the present occasion, that I had depriv'd my enemies of the only reasonable handle they could make use of, in order to deprive me of my liberty. 'Twas very plain that I intended to marry miss *Cecilia*; so that I cou'dn't be accus'd of having shelter'd her in my house, merely to favour heresy, in opposition to his majesty's edicts.

I WAS highly satisfied with this disposition of matters, and spent the rest of the day in *Cecilia's* company, with the utmost satisfaction. Nevertheless, there was something very mysterious in my heart which I cou'dn't unravel; and I found its perplexity increase, when I prepar'd myself to take some rest. The
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image of my wife, and the several circumstances of her discourse with Mr. R—— painted themselves so strongly in my fancy, that I could not banish them. I spent part of the night, in endeavouring to drive away those melancholy ideas, which were fit only to fill me with distraction. I avoided even searching into the foundation of my thoughts, for fear of meeting with something in them, which my reason would force me to disapprove. I differ'd so much from what I was before ; that instead of endeavouring to know myself, at a time when every thing appear'd dark within, and around me, I dreaded nothing so much as the pains and confusion of such an enquiry. In case any antient philosophical lights darted upon my soul, I immediately chased them away, for this reason, *viz.* because I had prov'd their inefficacy. With regard to my wife, I was surpriz'd that her name and the remembrance of her, were capable of giving me so much uneasiness ; but then I also rejected with obstinacy, whatever tended to make me think favourably of her. What ! an ungrateful, a perfidious, and infamous creature ! No, no ; she is now to expect nothing from me but hatred and horror. All my ten-

demerits is reserv'd for my amiable *Cecilia*. She has heal'd my heart, and brought tranquillity to my soul; I therefore owe myself wholly to her charms. In this manner did I go to sleep, deluded by this idea of tranquillity, which I was far from possessing; and indeed my slumbers were far from peaceful, and I had a dream which will be eternally fix'd in my memory.

THE vision presented my wife and miss *Cecilia* at one and the same time to my fancy. The former in the mourning weeds in which Mr. R—— had describ'd her, but more lovely and charming, than ever she had before appear'd; with that air of sadness, which I was told she wore at *Chaillot*. On the other side, *Cecilia* rose before me, with all her native graces and sprightliness. I fancied myself seated, and that they both were standing before me. Their glances were upon me, and fix'd me, as it were, to my chair, notwithstanding all the endeavours I used to rise up from it. My eyes wander'd over them both, with inexpressible avidity, as attracted by two objects which my heart panted to have united. Nevertheless, every glance excited a different emotion in my soul. The languishing and afflicted air with which my wife appear'd, damp'd my

my heart in a surprizing manner; while at the same time, *Cecilia's* sprightly and delightful air, had almost the power to force a smile from me; but altho' a smile is always the effect of a pleasant sensation, I yet found that mine was merely superficial; and that my heart was afflicted at the bottom. This frame of mind was vastly painful to me. My desires were attracted two different ways at one and the same time. My wife's infidelity did not occur to me; for then, *Cecilia* would undoubtedly have turn'd the scale. I saw nothing but two amiable objects, which claim'd an equal share of tenderness, and raised the strongest emotions in my soul. In fine, I imagin'd I saw my two children leading their mother in by the hand; and as she drew nearer, methoughts she took up that part of my heart which *Cecilia* had fill'd before. Nevertheless, there was something bitter in the pleasure I felt, in finding her so near me. Even the very instant that I was going to embrace her, I fancied I saw tears trickle down her cheeks, and mine also. I awak'd, when I did not taste that gentle satisfaction, which remains in the heart, after a man has seen in slumbers, what he dotes so much upon when awake; so far

far from it, that I never rose with so much heaviness upon my spirits. I dress'd my self as fast as I could ; and avoiding even to revive this importunate illusion in my imagination, I hasted to my *Cecilia*, in order to dispel the gloom which hung over my spirits.

BUT these moments of sorrow, were nothing in comparison of what I was to suffer a little after. It was usual for Mrs. *Lallin* and my sister to give my niece and the children an airing in the coach, and afterwards walk in the delightful solitude about *St. Cloud*. This custom they had discontinued ever since miss *Cecilia* had been with us, they never stirring from her. However, they determin'd to go and amuse themselves after the same manner, the very day after Mr. *R——* had been with my wife. They did not tell me the reason of their going abroad, which I suppos'd was merely because they were weary of the house. They left my niece with miss *Cecilia* ; and taking my two sons, they told me they were going to take the air for a few hours. Their design, in this was, in order to get a sight of my wife at *Chaillos*. They did not intend either to enquire for her at the gate, or make her a visit, but Mrs.

Lallin

Lallin being acquainted with the customs of convents, had assur'd my sister, that she wou'd not of fail seeing her in chapel, when the nuns chaunt vespers; and all she design'd was, to examine her features a little.

It was pretty late when they return'd home. Altho' the fair-sex disguise their thoughts better than men; I yet discover'd at their coming in, that they were chagrin'd; and thereupon I ask'd them whether any thing had vex'd them. They answer'd, with coldness, that nothing had. Nevertheless, as I still kept my eyes upon them, I plainly perceiv'd that they were both deeply afflicted. I did not carry my curiosity any farther; but happening to meet with both my children, I saw their eyes were bath'd in tears. I then examin'd them together and apart, but found them persist obstinately in refusing to tell me any thing. Tho' I did not yet suspect the truth of this matter, I yet judg'd that something had happen'd which I ought to know. Accordingly, taking my sister-in-law aside; I am surpriz'd, says I, that you should scruple to tell me what has happen'd to you. You shall never persuade me that the children cry for nothing; or even that I mistook when

I observ'd some change in yours and Mrs. *Lallin's* countenance. I am absolutely resolv'd to know what it is that troubles you.—She did not know what to do for some time; but as I still continued to urge her very much, she at last made the following confession.

You force me, says she, to relate, what will touch and affect you as much as it did us. Alas! I shall never forget what I have seen. You are to know then, that instead of taking an airing in the country, curiosity prompted us to go to *Chaillet*. We arriv'd there just as the nuns were at vespers. We went into chapel in order to get a sight of your spouse, and accordingly we saw her. She was upon her knees, in a mourning habit, as Mr. *R*—— had described her yesterday. I knew her, tho' she had her back to me. I did not intend to let her see us, much less did I desire that the children should. However, I could not help staying 'till she turn'd her head to us; designing, as soon as I had seen her face, to go away. We stood at the grate, which divides the choir from the nave or body of the chapel; and consequently, as she was at the other end of the choir, we were at a considerable distance from her. At last

last she turn'd her head ; however, I scarce believe that she knew us at first ; for altho' she discover'd some little emotion in her countenance, she yet seem'd not to know us. I was then going to lead your two sons out hastily, but the poor children knew their unfortunate mother. It would be impossible for me to describe the transports with which they were going to fly to her ; not considering that the grate prevented them from doing this. Their cries, or rather groans echoed thro' the whole chapel. They thrust their arms thro' the grate ; and would have call'd out upon their mother, but had lost the faculty of speech ; so that they broke only into a tender and confus'd murmur, which must have soften'd the most savage hearts ; but this was only the beginning of the melancholy scene. You may easily believe that their mother soon heard them. But 'tis not in the power of words to describe the impetuosity with which she flew towards them. She ran with open arms, not considering the place she was in, or the persons ; and so strong were her transports, that I was afraid she would have dash'd herself to pieces against the grate. However, these violent agitations having exhausted all her spirits in

an instant, she fainted in the middle of the choir. This frightened all the nuns, who immediately came up and gave her all the assistance possible. While she lay in the swoon, I endeavour'd to get the two children out of the chapel, but there was no making them stir. Their tears gush'd like rivulets from their cheeks, when they saw their mother lying on the ground ; and they still continued to stretch out their arms, and strive with all their might to get thro' the grate ; so that, at last, the youngest fainted away at my feet.

THIS relation pierc'd my very heart. I was standing up, when I desir'd my sister to let me take a little breath and set down a little. She then went on. Mrs. *Lallin* then had the child carried into the open air, in order that he might revive. As for me, I didn't stir from the eldest, who I expected would also fall in a swoon ; however, he did not. Your spouse being at last revived by the care and assistance of the nuns, she desir'd to be carried to the grate. 'Tis here you'd have melted, to see and hear the child and his mother. As they could not embrace one another, their mouths seem'd glued to the grate that was between them ; and they repeated with a most

most passionate tone of voice, the tender names of mother and son. Your spouse afterwards took her child's hands, and kiss'd them a thousand times, bedewing them with her tears. As she didn't see her other son, she enquir'd very eagerly what was become of him ; when I told her that he was out of order, and therefore had been carried into the air. Hearing my voice, she found that she was speaking to me. Alas ! sister, says she ; Is it you I see and speak to ? How infinitely I am oblig'd to you for bringing my two children ! Does friendship still inspire you with compassion for a wretched woman ? Seeing all the nuns about her, notwithstanding the confusion she was in, she nevertheless had the presence of mind to consider, that perhaps some words might slip from me thro' inadvertency, which it was not proper for the nuns to hear ; so that without giving me time to speak, she desir'd me to retire with her children into a room ; where, she said, she would come to me immediately.

I WAS in doubt, continued my sister, whether I should indulge her this small favour ; 'twas not but I was deeply afflicted to see her take on so much, but I recollected that I was in a convent ; that

'tis a kind of prison in which your two sons might, perhaps, be shut up ; in fine, that it was necessary I should use the utmost precautions.——I answer'd, that I was oblig'd to leave the convent immediately ; that I didn't dare to stay in *Chaillot* without I had your permission for that purpose ; and that I would desire your leave, to visit her another time. What ! says she with a flood of tears : you refuse to give me a moment's hearing ! you won't indulge me the satisfaction of embracing my children ? Undoubtedly my husband must have forc'd you to be thus cruel ; for alas ! what harm did I ever do you, and why should you hate me ? On the other side, your son begg'd me so earnestly to acquiesce with her desires, that I was upon the point of yielding. While this was doing, Mrs. *Lallin* came back with your son *Tommy* : When your spouse had no sooner set eyes upon that lady, but she fell again into a swoon. The nuns seeing the confusion this made in the church, remov'd her instantly, in order to assist her in another place. One of these entreated me to retire into a little room, where I might discourse her in private. However, the fear I was under of displeasing you, and
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to expose the children to the danger above-mention'd, prompted me to get into the coach, and return home forthwith. I cou'd hardly prevail with the children to come away with me, they being absolutely determin'd to stay with their mother: insomuch that I was oblig'd to threaten them I would tell you of it; but this not working upon their minds, I made the footmen force 'em into the coach. To comfort them, I promis'd to come some other time with them to *Cbaillot*; and strictly enjoin'd them not to acquaint you with what happen'd. Your footmen observ'd, says she, a man, but who he is they knew not, ride hard after us. He, at first, came upon a full gallop; but when he was got near enough to know the coach, he follow'd it softly; and turn'd back his horse, as soon as we were got into the house.

My sister look'd stedfastly upon me, as she ended her relation, in expectation of hearing me speak. I must own to you, says I, that I am prodigiously affected with what I have now heard. I know not whether it be love or compassion; but 'tis certain there is something in my heart, which still combats in my guilty wife's favour. Alas! how wretched

is my fate! says I, with a deep sigh. Most men are oblig'd to struggle with themselves, in order to preserve their affection for their wives, after they have been married but a few months; whereas, I am oblig'd to maintain a perpetual war in my own bosom, and yet cannot forget an infamous woman who has cover'd me with shame; and whom I ought to hate for a thousand reasons! I didn't think, says my sister, your case so deplorable; but fancied we were more obliged to miss *Cecilia*, whose charms, we suppos'd, had dispell'd your melancholy. I won't, says I, deny but that she is dear to me; and this you cannot doubt of, since I intend to marry her. She has sometimes exhibited such transports in my bosom, as, methoughts, I never felt before; but I must confess to you, that I am not able to describe what I feel. Figure to your self a man who being lost, as it were, endeavours to recover himself, but cannot flatter himself with the hopes that he ever shall; and who fixes, thro' despair, upon every thing that sooths his affliction.

THIS is the sad image of me. I have now, sister, says I, unbosom'd myself more to you, than I have done to any other person. Nature inform'd me with

too tender a heart. The greatest evil that cou'd possibly have befallen me, was the losing what I lov'd. Perhaps, I should have consol'd myself by the same reason which made me lose her; had I been capable, at the same time, of extinguishing the passion I have for her; but it still burns in my bosom; tho', what is a most cruel torment, I no longer possess the object of it. I languish'd for a long time, in the most violent agitations of sorrows, the extremes of which you are utterly a stranger to. This excess ought naturally to have lasted so long as life itself; and yet it lessen'd the moment I began to love *Cecilia*. You are sensible that she is a charming creature; and, indeed, I was suddenly struck with her. My heart, as I observ'd to you before, was form'd for tenderness; it was inflam'd with her perfections; and the return she indulg'd me of her love, increas'd mine to a prodigious degree. But in case I judge of all I have felt hitherto for her, by what I feel the instant I am speaking to you, and by the perplexity you saw me in yesterday; I am obliged to confess, that I love her but very little; and that the passion which inclines me to marry her, is not suggested by me, but

by another. I don't doubt but what I now say will appear dark to you ; however, don't desire me to explain myself farther, for this would fill me with the utmost shame and confusion. I even endeavour to divert my eyes from turning themselves inward. I cannot, nor will not know myself.

My sister was a woman of very good sense. She perceiv'd that I perhaps was going to be replung'd in my former sorrow, and consequently stood in need of a support. This made her make such an answer as I was far from expecting, after she had told me the abovemention'd particulars of my wife. I guess, says she, part of what you explain in so mysterious a manner ; but continued to observe, that what affection soever I might still have for my wife, as her crime was of such a nature, as would not suffer me to indulge the least hopes of our ever being reconciled, her opinion was, in case I thought fit to hear it ; that I ought to make my court to miss *Cecilia* more assiduously than ever, and not oppose the tender inclinations I had for her ; that it matter'd not what it was that gave rise to my soft sensations, since they were directed to a worthy object, and prov'd an agreeable

agreeable amusement; that she had observed a fault in me, *viz.* that I refin'd too much on the nature and principle of my impulses; that a little more simplicity, and less argumentation were necessary, in order to make myself happy; that she hadn't approv'd any thing I had said so much, as the resolution I had taken not to study my own mind so much as I had done; that the uneasiness I complain'd of, was owing to my reflections, rather than to the natural disposition of my heart; and after all, that she did not think my present circumstances so very unhappy: that, indeed, I had lost a wife whom I lov'd to distraction; but then, that 'twas a great happiness I had rid myself of her, since she was so unworthy of my esteem; that I was very happy in being so dear to miss *Cecilia*; that therefore I ought to think of her only; and be assur'd, that all my past afflictions would be remov'd, when once I was possess'd of *Cecilia*, especially when we were got safe to *England*.——Altho' I approv'd part of this advice, and was resolv'd to follow it, it yet was not capable of charming my anxiety. At her leaving me, she ask'd whether I should approve of her going to *Chaillot* again? I answer'd, that she might do as she pleas'd. THE

THE next day in the afternoon, word was brought me that a clergyman was in the parlour, who enquir'd for me by the name of *Cleveland*. Altho' I was surpriz'd to hear a person ask for me by that name, I yet order'd him to be brought in. He told me that he was chaplain to the convent of *Chaillot*; and that my wife having experienc'd his probity and discretion, had not scrupled to let him into our whole story; that she had begg'd him to conjure me, by all that was holy, to let her have the satisfaction of seeing and embracing her children; that she might, indeed, cease to be my wife, but that it was impossible for her not to be their mother; that she waited with inexpressible eagerness to see them; that she wish'd I might be as happy with my bride, as I cou'd wish to be, and that she would do all that ever lay in her power to promote my felicity; that in consequence of this she would never trouble me by her presence or reproaches; but that, in return for the implicit submission I had always paid to my will, she begg'd me upon her knees, not to deny her the satisfaction of seeing her two children.——That as for her having ask'd for me by the name of *Cleveland*

land, this ought not to give me the least uneasiness ; that my wife having appointed a person to follow my coach, a little after she was recover'd from her swoon, which had prevented her from asking Mrs. *Bridge* where I liv'd ; the footman whom she sent after us, had told it her ; but not knowing I had chang'd my name, she therefore had me enquir'd for by my real one ; and that he had not heard any where but in my own parlour, that I did not care to pass for *Oliver's* son, a circumstance he promis'd not to reveal to any person.

AFTER he had ended this discourse, in the most polite and affable manner, he assum'd a graver air ; and as his words had struck me so far, that I was oblig'd to meditate a moment, on the answer it would be proper for me to make him ; he had time to anticipate it. This, sir, says he, is what your wife desir'd me to tell you : I have only repeated her own words, pursuant to the urgent orders she gave me. But now I have declared her desire, give me leave to explain myself with the liberty, which the character I am invested with allows me. Cou'd one possibly believe, that so wise, so good natur'd a man as you have always appear'd to be, according even to your wife's

wife's description, could have taken so unaccountable a resolution, as that you are going to execute? I am sensible that a man of good sense may sometimes be deluded by an irregular passion; and may for some time swerve from his duty. But then, to pass all bounds; to break the most sacred of all ties; to renounce all virtue and justice, is what can never be perpetrated but by a man whose heart is corrupted very much; and consequently all this in a man of your character is incomprehensible. I know you only, as I before observ'd, from the character which your lady gave me of you. I find, that notwithstanding the just reason she has to complain of you, she yet does justice to your merit. I am justly persuaded that you are a very deserving gentleman; the testimony she gives you, is the highest panegyric on you both. But what use do you make of it? Where is your good nature, when you abandon a woman that adores you; and whose excellent sense, virtue, mildness, heighten'd by a thousand natural graces, ought to have bound you eternally to her? Where is your wisdom and judgment, when you prefer a woman to her, who has no other merit but what your passion bestows upon her? This I judge from

from my own eyes. I saw her yesterday in *Chaillot*. Heavens! how wide is the difference between her, and the person for whom you abandon her? In fine, what honour have you, when, notwithstanding your good sense, you yet make yourself a slave to a shameful passion, and expose yourself to the raillery of all who know you?

I WAS for interrupting this injurious harangue, which appear'd to me equally irrational and impolite. But he went on with the same warmth. — But a moment or two more, sir, says he, I have but a word or two to say; and as 'tis not probable, that I shall have an opportunity of seeing you often, I shall enjoy this satisfaction, *viz.* that I have done my duty; and left such hints with you, as are worthy of being consider'd. Hitherto, I have only taken notice of such particulars in your conduct, as are repugnant to reason and moral honesty; but d'ye think it does not interfere equally with conscience and religion? By what right, and upon what pretence, do you think to dissolve the holy ties of marriage? I don't know what religion you profess; but are the laws of any so detestable, to authorize the violation of an oath, when your wife has kept strictly to hers?

hers? I am sensible that she was so weak as to sign an instrument of divorce, which I told her she ought not to have done. The only answer, she made, was, that she did it in consequence of the resolution she had made, to prove to you, so long as she lives (by her obedience and submission) that she doesn't deserve the treatment she has met with from you. 'Tis plain, that this excess of good nature does not justify her. But you are infinitely more unjust, for thus presuming to plunge yourself into guilt, without the least shadow of reason; except it be that of a wild, abominable passion. This, sir, added he, is what I thought myself oblig'd to tell you for Mrs. Cleveland's sake; and as we are alone, I imagin'd it wou'dn't be impertinence in me. I have, indeed, deliver'd myself with the utmost freedom, and wish it may produce a happy effect. All that remains, is, for you to acquaint me with your will and pleasure, with regard to the principal affair which engag'd me to trouble you with a visit.

NOTWITHSTANDING I was highly shock'd at what he said; and that considering how affairs stood between my wife and me, it was natural for me to look upon all he had spoke, as very injurious and
absurd:

absurd: I nevertheless should have argued upon several particulars he had mention'd to me, had they been utter'd to me by any person but an ecclesiastic: but the remembrance of what had so lately pass'd between myself and the jesuit, rais'd the strongest suspicions in my mind. Notwithstanding my perplexity, I yet was so much master of my temper, as to content myself with answering the chaplain, that I would pardon him for employing so many invectives; that in case he was so much in my wife's confidence, as he declar'd himself to be; he ought to accuse her for having given him but a very imperfect account of matters, which consequently shew'd but little esteem and confidence; that in case she would open herself more, she cou'd inform him of such circumstances, as wou'd very much lessen what he call'd his zeal; and plainly shew him that my conduct was more honourable, rational and religious than he suppos'd it to be. As to the request with regard to my children, I promis'd to send them sometimes to *Chaillot*; not being so unreasonable, as to deny them the satisfaction of seeing their mother sometimes. He desir'd the favour to see and embrace them, in the name of the person who had sent him, which I immediately granted. IT

It was impossible for me to banish the reflections which occur'd after he was gone. I recollected, involuntarily as it were, the most insignificant expression in his discourse and my answers. The only point I imagin'd I had clearly discover'd, among the several obscure reproaches he had made me, was, the character of the lady I intended to marry. I did not doubt but this woman, whose merit he declar'd to be so vastly inferior to that of my wife; and whom he said he had seen at *Cbaillot*, was Mrs. *Lallin*, who, in all probability, my wife imagin'd I was going to marry. I cou'dn't but smile at the mistake. But as what the chaplain added afterwards was a mystery to me, all I concluded, was, that this was wholly an artifice of my wife's; who, in order to preserve her reputation in the convent, endeavour'd to disguise her ill conduct, and to throw the whole blame of our separation upon me. 'Tho' 'twas but natural that she should act in this manner, after having been so vile as I suppos'd her, I yet was highly offended with her upon that account. However, this reflection lessen'd the uneasiness I before felt upon my wife's account. What lengths, would I say to myself, won't that woman go, who has violated her conjugal fidelity!

ty! One crime draws many after it. My wife was upright, sincere, and incapable of dissembling; and now she is the very reverse. She has dishonour'd herself in a most scandalous manner, and yet she would be look'd upon as innocent. Perfidious woman! who could have believ'd that so vile a heart lodg'd in thy breast! By what indications shall we henceforward know, that a woman is modest, sincere, tender and virtuous? After having made these reflections, I return'd to the park, in order to sooth my mind as usual, in the company of dear *Cecilia*. The impression I still retain'd of what now happen'd, made me vent a deep sigh as I enter'd the room where she was. That amiable creature undoubtedly saw into the tumults of my soul, and in all probability guess'd the cause of them; but then she was convinced that I lov'd her dearly, and she herself was passionately fond of me. She receiv'd me as an endearing, but sick lover, who stood in need of her tenderness and indulgence. She would sometimes look upon me with a troubled and languishing air; on which occasion I could read in her eyes, all the tender impulses of her soul; and strengthened, in some measure, by the testimony she gave of her compassion, I thank'd her

her kindly for it, as being so well adapted to check the violence of my disease.

WHILE these things were doing, Mr. R—— was labouring incessantly to procure a divorce for me. This he had propos'd to the consistory at *Charenton*; and notwithstanding the protestants were treated with so much severity in *France*, as to be daily dispossest of one or more of their privileges; he yet had found so much credit with the elders, as to prevail over their fears, and make them consent to receive my petition. The day was even appointed, for receiving the depositions of the witnesses. My sister-in-law, her daughter, Mrs. *Lallin*, and my head servants, were to be examin'd by the commissioners; and after such unanimous and positive depositions, it was suppos'd that a divorce wou'd be immediately granted. 'Twas undoubtedly heaven which put a stop to this blind project, at a time when one would have imagin'd, nothing could have prevented its being put in execution. I myself wish'd to have it soon ended; not but that I was always tortur'd with uneasinesses and fears, which a person of a fearful mind wou'd, perhaps, have look'd upon as so many bad omens; but I was persuaded, agreeable to my sister's motion, that nothing could dispel the
gloom

gloom with which my mind was clouded, but my marriage with *Cecilia*. Besides, her charms continued to have the same power on my soul ; or that in case, as I had observ'd to my sister, it were possible this lovely creature had not inspir'd me with love ; I yet was sensible to all the transports of a genuine passion.

BUT now the day appointed by the consistory for hearing the depositions of the several witnesses was come. The morning of this fatal day, word was brought me, that a canon of *St. Cloud*, whose name was *Audiger*, with whom I was a little acquainted, desir'd very earnestly to speak with me ; and that he had an unknown person along with him, who appear'd to be no less urgent to see me. I was alone in my room, sitting on a couch, where I was revolving with sorrow the several particulars which were to be transacted that afternoon ; and this reflection having increas'd my habitual melancholy, ever since the morning ; I order'd my servants to deny me to every body. Nevertheless, having some respect for Mr. *Audiger*, he being a man of excellent sense, and a person of great merit ; I bid the servant introduce him to me in the room where I then was. Accordingly he was brought in with the unknown

unknown person. Excuse, sir, says he to me, my being so troublesome; I should not have insisted upon seeing you, after I found by some words that your servant dropt, that you were determin'd not to have any person admitted to you; but I had promised, at the request of an intimate friend of mine, to introduce this gentleman to you, who has affairs of very great consequence to communicate to you; I then desir'd them to sit down, when I call'd to mind, that I had seen this stranger somewhere; but a handkerchief which he held before his mouth, as tho' he had got the tooth-ach; and a large perriwig which hid a great part of his face, prevented me from immediately recollecting who he was. Besides, I should have been equally astonish'd, had he not disguis'd himself in this manner; and cou'd scarce have believ'd, that a wretch whom I suppos'd to be dead; and who, for a thousand reasons, ought to have shunn'd my presence in case he were living; cou'd appear before me with so much seeming tranquillity of mind, at a time when I so little expected him.

As soon as he was seated, he discover'd his face to me, when I presently knew him. Nevertheless, the improbability of his being the person I took him for; and

and the vast surprize which the sight of him threw me into, made me still doubtful for a moment. A thousand tumultuous emotions were rising in my soul, when he himself declared who he was. Your eyes, says he to me in *English* (in order that the canon might not understand him) were not mistaken; I am *Gelin*. "I disguis'd myself in this manner, in order to get myself introduc'd to you, undiscover'd by your family. I beg therefore that we may talk matters over calmly; and in case you are a man of honour, you won't suffer me to be insulted under your roof. You hate me, says he, with a resolute tone of voice; a circumstance I don't wonder at; for I have done all that lay in my power to incur your hatred; and, indeed, I am not come hither with a design of suing for your friendship; I now appear before you, only to complete the measure of my iniquity. I seduced your wife; murther'd your brother my good friend; and am now resolv'd either to take away your life, or lose my own; and therefore enjoin you to meet me sword in hand, and to appoint the time and place.

THESE furious words check'd the marks of astonishment, which I undoubtedly discover'd when he first appear'd before me; but now I was so strongly enflam'd

flam'd with rage, that I was going to rush from my seat, and punish him for his abominable crimes. Nevertheless, after a moment's reflection, I consider'd that as I was unarm'd, I very easily might come off by the worst. Nor was there need of deliberating on his challenge, for neither honour or reason would permit of my accepting it; and I consider'd that I ought to deliver him into the hands of the magistrate, whose business it was to punish him for his horrid villany. All the difficulty, was, how to get this infamous wretch seiz'd; for I did not doubt but he had pistols about him for his own security, besides a long sword which he seem'd to wear merely for show sake. I continu'd silent for some moments, revolving how I might best seize upon him; and considering what could be the reason why he should desire to take away my life. His impatient fury discover'd itself in all his motions; when he urged me to give him an answer; advising me, with malicious raillery, to accept of his challenge, both for my own security and honour. At last I was determin'd; and how greatly soever I might always abhor artifice, I yet resolv'd to make use of it upon this occasion. I told him, in order that he might explain himself farther, that I cou'd
not

not think of any reason he cou'd have to hate me, and that any other man but he, would have look'd upon me with another eye, after the high injury he had done me, and the many favours I had indulg'd him; however, that I accepted of the opportunity he gave me of punishing all his crimes; and that I would not suffer him to escape; but that in order to keep my servants from suspecting any thing; it would be necessary for us, as he had desir'd at his coming in, not to make the least noise, but to assume an unruffled countenance. I ask'd him whether Mr. *Audiger* knew any thing of the business he was come about? he assur'd me he did not, upon which I invited them both to breakfast with me, and they accepted of my invitation.

I THEREUPON call'd one of my servants, whom I immediately order'd to prepare breakfast. I had advanc'd so far towards the door, that I had an opportunity of whispering to my servant that I wanted help; and that my life was in danger, in case I was not favour'd with immediate succour; and therefore I bid him order all the servants to come up well arm'd. Such an order as this, which possibly might be given with an air of confusion, could not but alarm the whole family in an instant. My servants were dis-

pers'd up and down ; and the hurry of getting them together was so great, that those in the park had notice of it. The ladies heard the danger I was in ; and their affection increasing the fear with which they were seiz'd, they imagin'd that I had been assassinated. *Cecilia* trembled most for my life ; and thereby forgot, that it was of the highest consequence, not to let it be known that she was in my house. She ran, with the women after her, and got to the stair-foot before the servants were come with their weapons. *Gelin* had, perhaps, mistrusted something, upon seeing me whisper the footman ; but hearing a noise, and hearing miss *Cecilia* call aloud for me, he did not doubt but I intended to seize him. Immediately he was fir'd with rage, when he drew his sword as quick as lightning, and made a thrust at me. However, I had the good fortune to parry it ; but as I rose from my chair in order to lay hold of him, he threw me on the couch which stood just by, and run his sword twice thro' my body ; so that I now lay on my back, the blood streaming from my body. The canon, who, perhaps, had endeavour'd to seize upon the assassin, but miss'd him twice, catch'd hold of his arm just as he was going to make the third thrust. The sword

sword fell to the ground, and roll'd to some distance from the bed; which *Gelin* seeing, he did not offer to take it up, but pulling a brace of pistols out of his pocket, he presented them, and endeavour'd to run down stairs.

THE reader may suppose, that all I have just now related was done in an instant. *Cecilia* was got very near to the door, when *Gelin* push'd her with so much violence, that he had like to have thrown her down; but recovering herself, she came into my room, the tears gushing from her eyes. Here the first thing she saw, was *Gelin's* sword all bloody. She laid hold of it, when not doubting, but that the canon who stood by the bed side, and was assisting me, had contributed to my death, or was killing me; she advanced towards him with the point, in order to run him thro' the body. I don't know how he came to be so happy as to escape her, but he turn'd about so suddenly, that at the first push, the sword only run thro' his gown; but she still continued to thrust at him, and he was so fortunate as to ward them all. As I still had all my senses about me, I begg'd her in a faint voice to spare him, but this seem'd only to exasperate her the more. However, by good luck for the canon,

some of the servants came to his succour. *Dring* was at their head, who had seiz'd *Gelin*, notwithstanding the great resistance he made. That villain, seeing nine or ten men arm'd at the bottom of the stairs, had threaten'd to shoot the first man through the head, who should presume to stop him. But *Dring* who was a very bold man, made him no manner of answer, but running to him, and presenting a pistol, bid him lay down his; which disconcerted *Gelin* to such a degree, that he suffer'd himself to be seiz'd. After this he was very easily disarm'd, and four of my servants held him fast.

DRING was surpriz'd at his coming into the room, to see miss *Cecilia* running at Mr. *Audiger*; and seeing me wounded and stretch'd on the bed, he also imagin'd that the good canon was one of the assassins; and so far from endeavouring to assist him, methoughts I could see by his uncertainty, that he would have been glad to have seen him punish'd by the hands of a woman; and indeed, had he really been guilty, no kind of punishment would have suited better for an ecclesiastic. I thereupon bid them take the sword out of *Cecilia*'s hand, which she deliver'd at once, and coming up to me, gave me the fondest marks of her affliction. My
sister,

sister, Mrs. Lallin, and my niece came in at the same time, and began to view my wounds. Immediately a surgeon was sent for from *St. Cloud*, who being come, and probing my wounds, found they were both dangerous, but could not say whether they were mortal. What, however, gave him the best hopes, was, to find me so calm and easy, notwithstanding I had lost so much blood.

THE sending for the surgeon from *St. Cloud*, prov'd of fatal consequence to the assassin. I had given orders for his being secur'd very carefully, intending to have him brought into my room, as soon as my wounds should be dress'd; and to ask him the reasons, why he had perpetrated so horrid a crime. But the footman who was sent to *St. Cloud*, not having been order'd to keep the affair a secret, had told it to every body. Soon after this it got to the ears of the chief magistrate of the place; who immediately sent their officers, and these took him from my house, and carried him to prison. My wounds were dressing at that time; and as the people about us, were not willing to give me the least uneasiness in the condition I was in; they therefore didn't take a word of notice to me about it. However, I did not approve of what they had

done, when I was told that the wretch had been carried to prison; for besides, that I should have had the generosity to forgive him; I found myself frustrated by this means, of knowing what had prompted him to commit this wicked deed. Mr. *Audiger*, who was now reconcil'd with miss *Cecilia*, and of whom I ask'd several particulars with regard to this sad incident; protested to me that he had never seen *Gelin* before that day; and that he had brought him merely at the request of the chaplain of *Cbaillet*; who had desir'd that favour of him by letter. This recommendation certainly shew'd, that my wife still kept up a correspondence with *Gelin*; but altho' I cou'd not ascribe her professing, notwithstanding this, to lead a holy life, to any thing but the most detestable hypocrisy; I yet cou'd not carry my suspicions so far, as to think she had any hand in, or the least knowledge of, the barbarous action I have just now related. She, in that case, did I say, cou'd not be a woman, but a detestable monster and fury. I thereupon endeavour'd to banish this thought, as tho' it would have been criminal in one to entertain it. It had even made me shudder, in a manner, the first time it occur'd to my imagination. Nevertheless it wou'd still present itself, tho' I did

I did my utmost to keep it out. My sister took notice that I was very uneasy at something, which made her ask me what it was?

—What construction, says I, can you put, on *Gelin's* correspondence with the chaplain of *Cbaillot*? Is it possible that my wife cou'd be so base?—I did not dare to go on; but my sister knew what I hinted at; she threw her eyes on the ground, and did not dare to make a word of answer; upon which I desir'd her to speak her thoughts. This she at last did, but with the utmost reluctance, when she confess'd to me, that Mrs. *Lallin*, *Cecilia*, and herself, had the same apprehension as I, since they had heard the particulars Mr. *Audiger* related. This cruel confirmation of a doubt, which I at first look'd upon as a crime, made a mortal impresson on my heart. I felt the tears, as tho' they had been of fire, run down my cheeks. Heaven! says I, thou now compleatest the measure of my woe. Barbarous *Fanny*! alas! what have I done? All that is wanting to compleat thy pleasure and thy iniquity; is, to stab my heart! *Cecilia* was present, who, so far from being offended at my complaints, I plainly saw by her eyes, that they affected her prodigiously. Alas! *Cecilia*, says I, looking mournfully at her; your kindness only can give me consolation.

tion. I should hate life, which the treacherous *Gelin* and my more cruel wife, endeavour'd to deprive me of, had I not the sweet assurance of leading a most delicious one with you.

His father, who had got that day nominated for the commissioners to meet, and to take the depositions of the witnesses, arriv'd early in the morning at *Charenton*; but was very much surpriz'd not to see my family there, at the hour appointed; and therefore he came to my house at night, when he heard the fatal accidents which had happen'd. In his passion, he resolv'd to have *Gelin* prosecuted with the greatest rigour; and to trace the horrid action he had committed as far as possible, in order to discover all his accomplices. I endeavour'd to soften his rage, by telling him that I dreaded too much to know, what I desir'd to be for ever ignorant of. Besides, says I, consider that it affects my honour. Wou'd you advise me to blaze my own shame, and by that means, perhaps, make my infamous wife die by the hands of the common executioner? She does not, indeed deserve a better fate; but then, I ought to sacrifice my own resentments to her father's memory; to my own honour, and even yours, since you have consented that I should marry your daughter. I therefore,

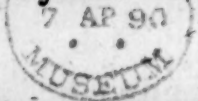
therefore, says I, approve so little of your advice, that I, on the contrary, entreat you to employ your credit, and that of your friends, to stop *Gelin's* prosecution, and to save him, tho' he is so unworthy to live. 'Twas upon this account I so earnestly desir'd to speak with you. The dutchess of *Orleans* is daily expected, only prevail with the judges to delay the prosecution 'till she is come, and I don't doubt but her highness will indulge me in whatever favour I shall ask. Mr. R—— approv'd of these reasons ; and going to *St. Cloud*, he got the prosecution postpon'd 'till the dutchess's return ; but cou'd not so easily be admitted to see *Gelin* in prison. I had desir'd him to request this favour of the judges ; and to do all that lay in his power, to make *Gelin* confess ; but he was not permitted to see him. However, I was very well satisfied with the favour he had obtain'd ; and to hear from him that the dutchess would come before 'twas long ; being the greatest part of her baggage arriv'd at the palace.

AND indeed, she came two days after, with the whole court. This we knew by the ringing of the bells, and other testimonies of publick joy ; for this excellent princess was so universally belov'd, that every one was extremely sorry, when she

was

was absent. Pleasures were never tasted but when she was present; but alas! she was to taste but few more in this world, for her life was now drawing to a period. How frail is human grandeur! In the bloom of youth, but one remove from the throne, in the midst of delights, and a profusion of all things that can make life delicious; she was a few days after this, to see all these things torn from her; and serve as an example to those who lay too much stress on the advantages of high birth and riches. Her return was not only fatal to herself, for *Cecilia* was included in the same sad decree, which snatch'd her out of the world; and if this illustrious princess serv'd as a *memento* to those who are too fond of the fading glories of this world; *Cecilia*, was a dreadful one to all such as set too high a value on the lovely gifts of nature, and the charms of beauty. I only, who, for so many years had been the sport of fortune; after having pass'd thro' a series of calamities, was destin'd, at a time when I least expected it, to be happy beyond imagination. But then I was doom'd to a long course of suffering, before I cou'd attain to this felicity; and pursuant to the usual course of my fate, my bliss was, to cost me dear, after possessing it but a few moments.

The End of the fourth Volume.



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